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OPS's McCaw receives national recognition

By Jason Wesseldyk
Sports Editor

Otsego Public Schools director of communications Holly McCaw was completely caught off guard.

In Washington D.C. for the annual National School Public Relations Association (NSPRA) National Seminar beginning Monday, July 20, McCaw was presented with the Learning and Liberty Leaders Recognition.

Although others from the Michigan School Public Relations Association (MSPRA) delegation knew McCaw would be so honored, she did not.

"I am eternally grateful to my Michigan School Public Relations Association colleagues for the wonderful surprise and honor they gave me," McCaw said. "I had no idea and sat just listening to them describe one of two winners as the MSPRA board members around me videoed my reaction and watched for the 'ah-ha' moment when I realized it was me then (broke) into tears.

The Michigan School Public Relations Association board nominated McCaw for the award.

"To be nominated for this honor by the MSPRA Boar—the very people I look up to in the highest regard—was a moment I'll never forget," she said.

Otsego Public Schools director of communications Holly McCaw (left) received Learning and Liberty Leaders Recognition from the National School Public Relations Association. (Photo provided by Bakers Man Productions)

Christie Robinson began her role as Otsego Public Schools superintendent on July 1, taking over for the retiring Jeff Haase. And in her first few weeks on the job, she has seen firsthand how important McCaw is to the district.

"Holly is an amazing asset to Otsego Public Schools," Robinson said. "I have only worked with her for a short period of time, but her commitment to celebrating the students, staff and community shows her passion to serve.

"She has the ability to highlight the opportunities our district has to offer as well as the joy those experiences bring to our students. She is truly deserving of national recognition for her work and eye for detail."

According to the NSPRA website, the Learning and Liberty Legacy Leaders Recognition allows NSPRA members and chapters to recognize individuals for their positive impact on colleagues' careers and tireless work behind the scenes on behalf of education and improved communication.

Eligible nominees must hold a current professional or professional partner membership with NSPRA and have been a member for a minimum of five years. Nominations of retired members and posthumous nominations are also acceptable, with the minimum membership requirement over the course of their careers.

"To be recognized on the national level in front of this group was a surreal moment," McCaw said. "It's a privilege to be among them."

McCaw began her role with OPS 14 years ago after a career as a news anchor. She described herself as "a wide-eyed school PR rookie" when she started at OPS.

She credits the members of the MSPRA and NSPRA with helping her find her stride in her new position.

"It was the MSPRA and NSPRA family that helped me learn and find success in this role, and to become the professional I am today and able to mentor others like others mentored me," McCaw said. "This is an incredible honor."

Ransom's Summer Celebration set for Friday, Aug. 8

By Jason Wesseldyk
Sports Editor

Since Ransom District Library hosted its first Summer Celebration in 2021, the event has become an annual tradition.

That tradition continues on Friday, Aug. 8, with Ransom hosting this year's Summer Celebration from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m.

As always, those attending the event can expect fun, food and music.

The fun comes in the form of a foam cannon, balloon twisting and a bounce house.

The food includes free ice cream treats—courtesy of the Friends of Ransom Library—and food trucks with various offerings for sale.

And the band The Out of Favor Boys will provide the music.

"That mix of food, fun things for kids to do, great music and the lovely view of the Kalamazoo River offers something for almost anyone," Ransom director Joe Gross said. "We're very glad to play a role in furthering local community."

The first Summer Celebration took place in the summer of 2021, functioning as grand opening for the library's new building, which had opened earlier in the year.

"It was a 'thank you' to the community for their support of the new building," Gross said. "And after the pandemic, it felt great to invite that community to celebrate together in person."

It didn't take long for Gross and the other Ransom staff members to decide to make Summer Celebration a yearly event.

"In 2021, a lot of folks asked if we would have another outdoor event like that," Gross said. "So we decided to see if it would work on an annual basis.

"We now see the Summer Celebration as a continuation of that 'thank you,' and as a cap on the library's vital Summer Reading Programs. From the first Celebration, the Friends of the Library have covered most of the costs of the event, so a big 'thank you' always goes out to them as well."

Gross sees Summer Celebration as an example of Ransom's commitment to providing patrons with a variety of programming throughout the year.

"While the traditional library has always offered reading materials, contemporary public libraries have also specialized in cultural offerings and opportunities to learn and share," he said. "Community health relies on a lot of elements, and near the top of the list is being with other people. Being happy together is even better.

"We hope lots of folks will join us for just that again this year."

A bounce house will return to the Ransom Library Summer Celebration. (File photo)

Food trucks will once again be part of the Ransom District Library Summer Celebration. Free ice cream will be provided by Friends of Ransom Library. (File photo)

Plainwell council sets rates

By John Raffel
Correspondent

PLAINWELL — Plainwell City Manager Justin Lakamper, at a recent meeting, discussed water and wastewater rates for the new budget year.

A motion passed to adopt Resolution 2025-11 Water and Wastewater Rates for Fiscal Year 2025/2026.

City Consultant Kelley discussed recycling and bulk trash rates for the new budget year. A motion passed to adopt Resolution 2025-12 Recycling and Bulk Trash Rates for Fiscal Year 2025/2026.

City Manager Lakamper discussed fines and fees for the new budget yoting two changes to the fee schedule. A motion passed to adopt Resolution 2025-13 Fines and Fees for Fiscal Year 2025/2026.

City Consultant Kelley presented a listing of blanket purchase orders for approval for fiscal year 2026. These items are for previously approved contracts, sole-source purchases or blankets for reoccurring purchases to preferred vendors. A motion to approve 38 blanket and confirming purchase orders for Fiscal Year 2026 passed.

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Allegan County Historical Society awarded America250MI Grant

By Gari Voss

The Allegan County Historical Society has been a repository for all shapes, sizes and types of memorabilia. The barns in the John Pahl Historical Village are full, each building displays period furniture, pictures, Knick knacks, and equipment. The Old Jail Museum has rooms filled with pictures, newspapers, letters, and the like. How can all of these things be properly preserved?

Enter the Michigan America250MI Grant Program. On June 20, 2025, it was announced, "The America250MI Committee has awarded Allegan County Historical Society $5,000 as a part of the first round of the America250MI History Grant Program for Artifact Storage and Preservation."

The materials that are used to properly preserve pictures and newspapers are different than a plain plastic sleeve or envelope. This grant will help improve the artifact and storage system at the Old Jail Museum. The Old Jail Museum, built in 1906, began in 1963 when the prisoners were walked across the street to the "New Jail". Since then, it has become the repository of Allegan County's history. Society members and volunteers have been tasked with identifying, labelling, and storing items in the collection, keeping them safe from deterioration and damage, and available for special displays and programs.

Greg Hipps, president of the Historical Society, explained, "The America250MI History Grant Program is funding projects that will help preserve Michigan's history for future generations. The grant program represents a key element of the state's commemoration of the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence."

In 2020, Governor Whitmer wanted to explore ways in which Michigan could properly celebrate 250 years of the United States of America. She directed the Historical Society of Michigan and the Michigan History Center to coordinate the state's commemoration efforts of the anniversary of the founding of the U.S.A. From that directive came the America250MI Committee. It set its sights on coordinating the effort of preservation.

Thus, America250MI is Michigan's statewide committee tasked with commemorating the 250th anniversary of the founding of the United States of America, and the American Revolution's role in Michigan's history including how various historical events have impacted the people of Michigan's past, present and future.

Under the tutelage of Fern O'Beshaw, a Board member and the grant administrator, the grant was completed and submitted. Now that money has be awarded, President Hipps explained that some of the expensive materials for preservation like boxes, tissues, and special photo covering can be purchased and used to preserve the museum's collections for the future.

Michigan is fortunate to have the Historical Society of Michigan that was established in 1828 and is Michigan's oldest cultural organization. The Historical Society assists in connecting Michigan's past to the residents and organizations through programming and events, publications, awards, workshops, networking opportunities, and supporting local history organizations. What is most amazing is that the society is a member-supported educational 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization and receives no state-appropriated funding.

The Michigan History Center fosters curiosity, enjoyment and inspiration that is rooted in Michigan's stories by supporting museums, historic sites, Michigan Historical Markers, heritage trails, archaeology, and programming. As part of the Department of Natural Resources, the Center oversees 11 museums statewide, museum and archaeology artifact collections, and various educational programs.

United Way collecting supplies to support students

Heart of West Michigan United Way is once again "stuffing the bus" with essential school supplies to ensure students across West Michigan start the school year equipped and ready to learn. The annual Stuff the Bus drive is currently underway and will run through Tuesday, August 5.

In partnership with the community and local businesses, United Way is collecting new backpacks, notebooks, pencils, glue sticks, scissors, and other school supplies for elementary and middle school students in Allegan, Kent, and Ottawa Counties. Last year's drive gathered over 40,000 items thanks to the generosity of the community. Donations will support students and schools in the following schools:

Allegan Public Schools
Fennville Public Schools
Glenn Public Schools
Hopkins Public Schools
Innocademy – Allegan
Martin Public Schools
Otsego Public Schools
Outlook Strict Discipline Academy
Plainwell Community Schools
Wayland Union Schools
Hillside Learning Center
Transition Center
Early College
Tech Center

Members of the public are encouraged to drop off donations at various public collection sites across the tri-county area. Allegan County public drop-off sites include:

Fifth Third Bank Locations:
11282 M-89 Plainwell, MI 49080
1511 Lincoln Road Allegan MI, 49019

Family Farm and Home Allegan
1596 Lincoln Rd Allegan, MI, 49010

Additionally, a special Collection Day will be held on Tuesday, August 5, from 12:00 to 5:00 p.m. at the following locations:

Allegan – United Way Office 650 Grand St., Allegan, MI

Donations may be made online at hwmuw.org/stuff-the-bus

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Robinson begins tenure as superintendent at OPS

By Jason Wesseldyk
Sports Editor

OTSEGO—Shortly after entering the field of education in the mid-1990s, Christie Robinson developed what she called her "10-10-10 plan."

"I was going to spend 10 years as a teacher, 10 years as a principal and ten years as a superintendent," she said.

While that timeline didn't work out perfectly, Robinson did indeed work through all three of those roles. That includes spending the past four years as superintendent as Springport Public Schools.

Now, Robinson will continue her time as a superintendent at Otsego Public Schools, as she was named as the successor to the recently retired Jeff Haase.

Haase served as OPS superintendent beginning in July 2014.

"Otsego Public Schools has a long history of quality education and extra-curricular programs that allow their students to excel in both academic and personal goals," Robinson said. "I saw OPS as an opportunity to find a home where I am able to serve others and continue to elevate the expectations of our students and staff.

"The level of pride and commitment shown by the community to the school district made it a very attractive place to focus my time and energy."

Although new to Otsego, Robinson is quite familiar with Allegan County.

She graduated from Martin High School in 1989 and, following a one-year stint at Grand Rapids Creston High School to begin her teaching career, taught at the high school and middle school levels for Allegan Public Schools for 18 years.

She and her husband Frank have also lived in Plainwell for more than 30 years, with all four of their children graduating from Plainwell High School. Robinson also has seven grandchildren, with two attending Martin Public Schools, two attending Allegan Public Schools and two attending/will attend Plainwell Community Schools.

"This area is home for us," Robinson said. "As a family, we enjoy spending time together through the world of sports, camping and outdoor adventures."

After graduating from Martin, Robinson attended and played basketball at Nazareth College in Kalamazoo until its closing. She then transferred to Western Michigan University, earning a degree in secondary education with a focus on earth science and English.

"I have wanted to be a teacher since early elementary school," she said. "I started out studying elementary education and quickly realized I was not built for that age group. I then moved on to secondary and found my niche."

After her time teaching in Allegan, Robinson moved on to the second phase of her career plan by becoming a principal in Galesburg-Augusta Community Schools for the high school and alternative high school.

After eight years at G-A, she entered phase three of her career plan as she was named the superintendent for Springport Public Schools.

Her time at SPS, she said, taught her many lessons about running a district.

"Among the most important lessons I learned were that all people in the organization matter and that we all play a critical role in our success," said Robinson, who earned a master's degree in educational leadership from Grand Valley State University and a doctorate in educational management and leadership from Capella University.

"I also learned it's okay to lean on others, because we all need help from time to time. And I learned that transparency is appreciated, no matter who you are working with or what the message may be."

To that end, Robinson strives to be a servant leader.

"I strive find ways that I can help all members of our team to feel confident in their role and abilities to provide a quality education for our students," she said. "I believe it is important to listen, learn and grow with the district and its goals."

As as the case with all districts throughout the state and country, OPS is facing its share of challenges. Chief among those, according to Robinson, are the uncertainties surrounding finances for schools based on state and federal decisions and concerns surrounding student safety.

But she also believes the district has what it takes to handle those challenges.

"The level of commitment to excellence in all we do and the welcoming atmosphere of the staff, students and community are what define OPS," she said.

"Personally, I cannot wait to see the students and staff back on campus and the classrooms buzzing with activity. I am looking forward to working with our school board, who represents the voice of the community, and learning more about their perspective in the district."

Robinson also expressed excitement about the district's Learn n' Grow Early Childhood Education Center, which is "a dynamic space with incredible offerings for our younger students."

OPS will kick off the 2025-26 school year on Tuesday, Aug. 19.

Christie Robinson

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FURNITURE • HOUSEHOLD GOODS • GLASSWARE
Queen box spring & mattress set; free-standing wardrobe; wood single bed frame; dining table & 6 chairs w/extra leaves; hutch; curio cabinet; coffee table; 2- & 4-drawer filing cabinets; Singer knitting machine; patio chairs & furniture; side chairs; office desk; fold-out couch; 3 stack bookcase; hutch top; plant stands; mid-century iron chair & end table; record player console with records; weighted sterling; Coke tins; picnic basket; Glassware - Carnival, German crystal; tea cup sets; covered compote; tea set; carving boards; wine goblets; sherbets; candy dishes; dinnerware sets; snack sets; punch bowl set; mixer; measuring cups; bakeware; Pampered Chef apple peeler/corer; salt shaker collection; German shot glasses; candles & holders; Lots of sewing & craft items - beads, buttons, ribbons, material, sewing storage boxes, craft magazines & books; toys; Carom board, games, puzzles & lots more

ANTIQUES • MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS • TOYS • COLLECTIBLE ITEMS
Ice cream table & 4 chairs; Grand Opera hand-crank record player; Sturgis High School Marching Band uniform; sleds; ice skates; lots of old records; wood radio; metal watering can; (2) bubblegum machines; ladies hat; lanterns; milk can; wooden bowls; H gauge railroad track; horse-drawn bob sled; apple peeler; pipe rests; reel-to-reel projector; canning jars w/glass lids; brass horn; trombone; (2) brass tubas; French horn; (2) clarinets; box of drumsticks; Lots of toys - Ertl, Tonka, Happy Rancher, Nylint, Structo; Buddy L - trucks, semis, garbage truck, Jeep, fire truck, searchlight truck, dump trucks, trailers; red hay elevator; Greyhound bus; Indian Winnebago; (2) GMC Barbie motor homes; stock truck & trailer; (12) model cars; crocks; jugs; wooden barrel

Auctioneer's Note: This is just a partial list, more photos of this auction on the auction posting on www.auctionzip.com

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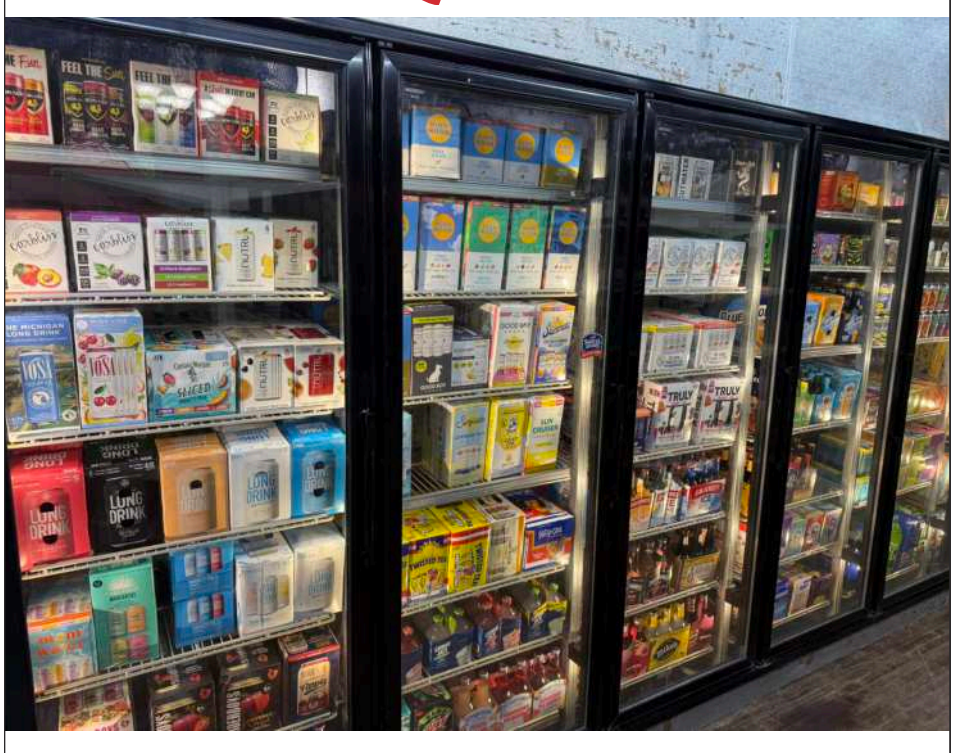
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Community Events

Community Calendar - Week of July 21, 2025

EVENTS TO WATCH FOR!

Thurs., July 24 – Sat., July 26, 2025: Downtown Allegan Sidewalk Sales
Explore the stores in Downtown Allegan

Thurs., July 24, 2025, 6:30pm: City Music Hall – Ragtime Banjo Revival Trio w/ King Sophia
City Park 116 S. Maple St. Fennville

Fri., July 25, 2025, 5-7pm: Free Holbein Art Workshop
Brave Art Studios & Gallery Lincoln Rd. Allegan

Fri., July 25, 2025, 5-7pm: Fourth Fridays in Fennville
Enjoy the evening with friends and family

Fri., July 25, 2025, 7-9pm: Rollin' on the River – Raquel & the Wildflowers
Allegan Riverfront off Hubbard St. Allegan

Sat., July 26, 2025, 10am-5pm: Village Square Art Fair
Along Butler & Main Streets Saugatuck, MI

Sat., July 26, 2025, 1pm: FREE Pastel Demonstration
Brave Art Studios & Gallery Lincoln Rd. Allegan

Sat., July 26, 2025, 7pm: Music at the Mahan – Cold Leather Seats
Mahan Park Gazebo Brady St. Allegan

Sat., July 26, 2025, 7-10pm: Summer Saturday Concerts & Food Trucks
Pullman Town Square 109th Ave & 56th St.

Sun., July 27, 2025, 8am-4pm: Allegan Antique Show
Allegan Co. Fairground 150 Fair Dr. Allegan

CURRENT EVENTS

Wed., July 23 & Thurs., July 24, 2025, 1-4pm: Free Athletics Physicals
L.E. White Middle School Gym Allegan
Physicals are FREE to all APS families. A parent must be present with the student athlete.

Wed., July 23, 2025, 9am: Civil Rights & Cultural Competency/Humility Training
Christian Neighbors 282 12th St. Plainwell
A MACC Workshop to explore principles of equality, inclusivity, and cultural awareness to foster respectful and equitable environments.

Wed., July 23, 2025: Library Fun
Allegan District Library 334 Hubbard St. Allegan
Friends Bag Sale
10am: Family Storytime in the Park - Come for stories, songs & games.
2pm: Teen accordion bookbinding class – join the Kalamazoo Arts Center for book making fun. Register at 269 673- 4625.

Wed., July 23, 2025, 5-9pm: Music on Main – Line Dancing
Wayland Downtown Wayland
Join the fun and wonderful music and boot scootin' boogie.
downtownwayland.com

Thurs., July 24, 2025, 8am-2pm: Allegan Farmers Market
Water & Cutler Streets Allegan
Double up food bucks available at City Hall, 231 Trowbridge Street.

Thurs., July 24 – Sat., July 26, 2025: Downtown Allegan Sidewalk Sales
Explore the stores in Downtown Allegan and don't forget the antiques at the Rocking House on M-89 east and the Brave Art Studio on Lincoln Rd/M-89 West,

Thurs., July 24: Library Fun
Allegan District Library 334 Hubbard St. Allegan
Friends Bag Sale
10am: Santa at the Splash Pad – Come with a bathing suit and join the jolly fellow.
3pm: Teen Color War! – 6th-12th graders **c**ome in grubby clothes and with a friend and create.

Thurs., July 24, 2025, 6:30pm: City Music Hall – Ragtime Banjo Revival Trio w/ King Sophia
City Park 116 S. Maple St. Fennville
Enjoy some vintage ragtime jazz.

Fri., July 25, 2025: Library Fun
Allegan District Library 334 Hubbard St. Allegan
Friends Bag Sale
1pm: Drawing Manga with Art of the Bud – 6th-12th graders can make and create with Natalie Budnick.

Fri., July 25, 2025, 5-7pm: Holbein Art Workshop
Brave Art Studios & Gallery Lincoln Rd. Allegan
Enjoy a FREE workshop with Michelle Hunt from Holbein. Register at brave.art.carr@gmail.com. Open to the first 50 to register with all materials provided.

Fri., July 25, 2025, 5-7pm: Fourth Fridays in Fennville
Enjoy the evening with friends and family sampling the food and having fun.

Fri., July 25, 2025, 7-9pm: Rollin' on the River – Raquel & the Wildflowers
Allegan Riverfront off Hubbard St. Allegan
Enjoy some Country.

Sat., July 26th – Sidewalk Sales – Allegan
Family activities throughout Downtown Allegan.

Sat., July 26, 2025: Library Fun
Friends Bag Sale
10am: Chalk the Walk! Everyone can stop during Sidewalk Sales to decorate.
11am: Jump Your Genealogy- All are invited to learn to find family history.

Sat., July 26, 2025, 10am-5pm: Village Square Art Fair
Along Butler & Main Streets Saugatuck, MI
Saugatuck's Village Square Park is a central location, of this juried art fair that offers only quality art created by the artists. The Venetian Festival happens at the same time, so Saugatuck will be wonderfully busy.

Sat., July 26, 2025, 1pm: FREE Pastel Demonstration
Brave Art Studios & Gallery Lincoln Rd. Allegan
Join Marilyn Troutman as she gives tips and tricks for "painting" with pastels. Materials will be provided. Register at brave.art.carr@gmail.com.

Sat., July 26, 2025, 7pm: Music at the Mahan – Cold Leather Seats
Mahan Park Gazebo Brady St. Allegan
Enjoy great classic folk-rock.

Sat., July 26, 2025, 7-10pm: Summer Saturday Concerts & Food Trucks
Pullman Town Square 109th Ave & 56th St.
July 26th, enjoy the Jimmy Savage Band and Dog Waggin'

Sat., July 26, 2025, 7-9pm: Sheer Pandemonium
Sandy Pines Phase 1 Outdoor Pavilion
This concert is for members, campers and registered guests.

Sun., July 27, 2025, 8am-4pm: Allegan Antique Show
Allegan Co. Fairground 150 Fair Dr. Allegan
A fantastic market to sell your antiques, collectibles or vintage items. Stalls are available 269-673-6501 or www.alleganantiques.com

Mon., July 28, 2025: Library Fun
Allegan District Library 334 Hubbard St. Allegan
11am: Perler Pals Art Club – ages 5-12 create with Perler Beads.
1pm: Craft & Snack – Bring your own project and enjoy chatting with friends.
6pm: Bingo – All can come play Bingo.

Mon., July 28, 2025, 2025, 5-8pm: Fork in the Road, Food Truck Rally
Downtown Allegan. Find your favorite food!

Tues., July 29, 2025: Library Fun
Allegan District Library 334 Hubbard St. Allegan
10:30am: Lapsit Storytime – 0-2 year olds enjoy stories, songs & fun.
6pm: What is it? / Did you know? – All are welcome to join a game of artifacts.

Wed., July 30, 2025, 10am: Play Café
Allegan District Library 334 Hubbard St. Allegan
Caregivers can enjoy a cup of coffee while little ones play.

Wed., July 30, 2025, 12-1pm: Community Information Exchange (CIE) Meeting
ACCF Office 112 Locust St. Allegan
Time to share and learn in a collaborative community. Questions, email info@alleganfoundation.org or call 269-673-8344.

Thurs., July 31, 2025, Library Fun
Allegan District Library 334 Hubbard St. Allegan
10:30am: Preschool Storytime – 3-5 year olds can enjoy stories, songs & fun.
6pm: Sound Immersion Therapy – All can bring a yoga mat, pillow & feel cozy. Register at 673 673-4625.

Thurs., July 31, 2025, 6:30pm: City Music Hall – Addison Agen & Rachael Davis
City Park 116 S. Maple St. Fennville
Enjoy some original Nashville music.

Fri., Aug. 1, 2025, 2-5pm: Car Seat Safety Check Event
Hopkins Fire Department Hopkins
Have a free car seat inspection and installation by a certified technicians.

Fri., Aug. 1, 2025, 7-9pm: Rollin' on the River – Kyle Brown & the Human Condition
Allegan Riverfront off Hubbard St. Allegan
Enjoy some Folk.

Fri., Aug. 1, 2025, 9:30pm: Mx. Allegan Pride Pageant 2025!
Griswold Auditorium Hubbard St. Allegan
The 4th Annual PRIDE in Allegan will include an evening Adult Only Pride Pageant with fun for all.

Sat., Aug. 2, 2025, 8am: Badges & Bravery, Run & Ride
Allegan Sports Complex Allegan
3 Bike Routes and 2 Runs to gather money for the Children of Safe Harbor. Register at safeharborcac.org/event/badges-and-bravery/.

Sat., Aug. 2, 2025, 10am: Drone Club
Allegan District Library 334 Hubbard St. Allegan
Come and enjoy learning to fly drones.

Sat., Aug. 2, 2025, 11am-2pm: Sylvia's Place Annual Carnival
Wolf Farms Windy Ridge 517 16th St. Byron Center
Enjoy a day outside playing games and having fun. Go to https://alleganfoundation.org/community-calendar/#event=78061366;instance=20250802110000?pop-up=1&lang=en-US to volunteer & find information.

Sat., Aug. 2, 2025, 1 - 10pm: Allegan Out Loud!
Allegan Riverfront Plaza Hubbard St. Allegan
Enjoy celebrating unity and acceptance with dignity, respect and love.

Sat., Aug. 2, 2025, 7pm: Good Times at the Gazebo – The Whateverly Brothers
Mahan Park Gazebo Brady St. Allegan
Enjoy great Acoustic classics.

Sat., Aug. 2, 2025, 6-10pm: Summer Saturday Concerts & Food Trucks
Pullman Town Square 109th Ave & 56th St.
Aug. 2nd, enjoy Michael Hulett and Smoke'n Joes Barbeque

Mon., Aug. 4, 2025, 6pm: Cricut for Beginners
Allegan District Library 334 Hubbard St. Allegan
All are welcome to come and create a tote bag. Register at 269 673-4625.

Mon., Aug. 4, 2025, 2025, 5-8pm: Fork in the Road, Food Truck Rally
Downtown Allegan. Find your favorite food!

Tues., Aug. 5, 2025, 10:30am: Lapsit Storytime
Allegan District Library 334 Hubbard St. Allegan
0-2 year olds can enjoy stories, songs & fun.

Tues., Aug. 5, 2025, 5-9pm: Wayland Block Party
Wayland Downtown Wayland
downtownwayland.com

Tues., Aug. 5, 2025, 6pm: National Night Out
Fennville will be alive with neighbors meeting neighbors and law enforcement.

ONGOING OPPORTUNITIES

ASSISTANCE

Adventist Community Service Center
218 S. Farmer St. Otsego Tues. 10am-4pm; Thurs. 1-5pm
Clothes for the family and household goods are available, layettes for newborns, clothing, diapers, toys, etc. for babies to 6 mo. For emergency needs, call 269 694-4775 or Marlene 269 217-8293. This is supported by the 7th-Day Adventist Church and an ACCF TAG Grant.

Allegan County Community Action - Assistance for daily living
23 Water Street, Allegan, MI 49010, www.communityactionallegan.org, (269) 673-5472
Food, weatherization, early childhood education.

Allegan Homeless Solutions - Helping eliminate barriers to housing.
108 Grant St., Plainwell MI 49080
www.alleganhomelesssolutions.org, Email: info@alleganhomelesssolutions.org

The Arc of Allegan County - Advocates for people with disabilities
219 Hubbard Street, Allegan 269 673-8841
Mission to advocate for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities in the community.

Baby Closet – Newborn Clothing and Supplies
Diaper Closet – monthly diaper program
Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd, 101 N. Walnut Street Allegan
Call 269 673-2254 and leave a message.

Christian Neighbors - Food, Education, Emergency Financial Assistance
282 12th Street Plainwell MI 49080 (269) 685-4166
Monday: Drive-thru only - 10am-12pm and 4pm-6pm.
Tuesday: In person shopping/walk ins - 10am-12pm
Thursday: In person shopping/walk ins - 2pm-5pm
We have been providing services to the Plainwell, Otsego and Martin areas since 1983.

Community Clothes Closet – Free Clothing and More
Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd, 101 N. Walnut Street, Allegan (269) 673-2254

Auto Accidents • Serious Injuries
Wrongful Death
HELPING PEOPLE IN MICHIGAN FOR OVER 35 YEARS
COOPER LAW
www.cooperlawplc.com
VA DISABILITY LAW CENTER
www.veternsdisabilitylawcenter.com
ARMED FORCES FOUNDATION
A PUBLIC, NON-PROFIT 501(C)(3) CHARITY
www.usarmedforcesfoundation.org
501(c)3 nonprofit charity
www.scrafoundation.org
501(c)3 nonprofit charity
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LOCATED IN THE HISTORIC MINT EXCHANGE BUILDING DOWNTOWN DECATUR

THE REGENT THEATRE
211 Trowbridge St., Allegan
www.alleganregent.com
269-673-2737

Friday, July 25 - Thursday, July 31
7pm Feature • $5 – Sat. & Sun. 2pm Matinee • $4
WEEKLY SPECIALS
Mondays - 2-for-1 Admission • Tuesdays- 25 cent Popcorn
FLASHBACK FRIDAY! Sponsored by Allegan Pizza Hut
Bill & Ted's Bogus Journey (1991) • July 25 @ 9:30pm • $5

THIS AD FOR SALE!
More than 50% of adults have a positive perception of ads in print newspapers.*
Want to be next to trusted content? Place your ad in this newspaper and a network of newspapers in the state!
Call this paper or 800-227-7636
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CNA

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Prices are going up!
STOCK UP NOW!
FOREVER STAMPS
Sheet of 20: $14
Roll of 100: $70
10 book limit per family. Limit 5 Rolls Per Customer While supplies last. MUST PRESENT COUPON
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Your Friendly Neighborhood Shipping Center
Goin' Postal is an authorized Post Office, UPS, FedEx and DHL Service Center! For all your shipping needs!
LOCATED NEAR WALMART!
409 Oaks Crossing, Plainwell • 269-685-8015
COUPON EXPIRES: JULY 31, 2025

Community Events

Open Fridays, 10am – 1pm A wide selection of clothing for all ages is available.

Grief Support Groups
Wings of Hope invites all to a welcoming and compassionate gathering. 1st Monday of the month – 6-7:30pm, Wings of Hope Office, 530 Linn St., Allegan; 2nd Tues. of each month – 12:30-2pm, United Methodist Church, 322 Maple St., Hopkins; 3rd Monday of each month – 3-4:30pm, Ransom District Library, 189 S. Sherwood Ave., Plainwell; 4th Tues., Grief Support Luncheon, 1pm, Salvino's 1290 M89, Plainwell.

Love, Inc.
Love in the Name of Christ 4621 135th Ave. Hamilton
For assistance with food, personal care items, baby needs, household items, clothing, appliances, furniture, bicycles, laundry, showers & Life Skills Wrap Around Care, call 269 751-2533. Visit www.loveincnwa.org., email: office@loveincnwa.org.

People Helping People of Pullman
Assistance by appt. 269 236-6295

Safe Harbor Children's Advocacy Center - Abuse Prevention and Healing
404 Sherman St., Allegan, MI 49010 www.safeharborcac.org, (269) 673-3791

St. Vincent de Paul-St. Margaret Conference - Food and More
St. Vincent de Paul 124A W. Allegan St. Otsego
Mon.: 1-3pm Tues. & Thurs: 10am to noon Wed.: 3-5pm
Food pantry and limited financial aid. Dtvincentdepaul9005@gmail.com
Serves Otsego, Plainwell and Martin School Districts

Sylvia's Place - Safe from Domestic Violence
Crisis Line: 269 673-8700

United Church of Wayland - Free Clothing
1st and 3rd Thursdays of the month, 4 - 6pm
411 E Superior St. in Wayland

Wings of Hope Hospice & Palliative Care - End of Life Care
530 Linn Street, Allegan, MI 49010, www.wingsofhopehospice.com, (269) 686-8659

FOOD

Allegan Food Pantry
Church of God, 1313 Lincoln Rd., Allegan
Monday: 10 am–1pm; Tues.: 2–7pm; Fri. 1-4pm Curbside Service
Contact: Phone: 269 686-6369
Deliveries are made to homebound senior citizens.

Christian Neighbors, SE
282 12th St. Plainwell 269 685-4166

Christian Neighbors, Wayland
122 Church St. Wayland 269 792-2870

Congregational Kitchen - Thursday Dinner Pickup
Congregational Church 325 Cutler Street Allegan
Call (269) 673-3139 after 3pm any Thursday and place an order.
Thursdays: Pick up 3 to 5:30 pm. Takeout dinners only during COVID-19

Epiphany Lutheran Church
4219 Park Land Dorr 616 681-0791

Food Truck - 3rd Friday of each month, 4:30 - 5:30pm
United Church of Wayland
411 E Superior St. in Wayland

The Hands of Grace Food Pantry
United Methodist Church, 409 Trowbridge St., Allegan 269 673-4236
Tuesday: 9-11:45 a.m.; Wednesday: 9-11:45 a.m. and 5-7 p.m.; Friday: 10-11:45 a.m.
Food Pantry serves FOOD to residents of Allegan 49010 w/valid ID with current address ONLY.

Hopkins United Methodist Church
322 Maple St. Hopkins
269 793-7340

Hungry for Christ
4565 135th Ave. Hamilton, 269 264-1307 x1000

Ladders of Hope USA - Food Assistance
717 East Main St, Fennville, MI 49408, www.laddersofhopemi.org, (269) 455-9452

Martin Area Resource Center
1445 10th St, Martin (269) 672-5605
No appointment needed. Pick up by one person per household.

Martin United Methodist Church
969 E. Allegan St. Martin 269 672-7097

Mobile Food Pantry, 2nd Monday of the Month: Drive Thru Food Distribution
Casco United Methodist Church 880 66th ST, South Haven MI 49090
Pantry items a pre-packaged. Limit - one box per vehicle.

Project Hope
1808 143rd Ave. Dorr
616 681-4673 appt. only

The Vine Food Pantry / Love, INC
Christ Community Church
3370 113th Ave, Allegan, MI · (269) 673-2329

Wayland Farners Market
Apr. – Oct. Wed. & Sat.
Downtown Wayland

FUN FOR THE FAMILY

Bingo!, Wednesdays, 6pm: American Legion Hall
Senior Bingo!, Tuesdays from 1-3pm: American Legion Hall
Corner of Eastern Avenue and Hooker, Allegan

Allegan District Library, M-Th 10am-8pm, F 10am-5:30pm, Sat.10am-4pm:
Plus, Carnegie Corner Bookstore (Friend available on Tuesdays)
Allegan District Library 331 Hubbard Street, lower level Allegan (269) 673-4625

Allegan Event – Ropes Course, Walls and More
439 River Street Allegan
Twilight Special: Thurs., 4-9pm, 2hrs. for $18
Free Game Card: Fri., 4-9pm w/ $20 food purchase
Family 4-Pack: Sat., 5-9pm, 4 premier combo tickets w/pizza+ for $130
For more information call 269-430-3961 or check online at https://www.alleganevent.com

Allegan County Historical Society, Old Jail Museum.
Fridays & Saturdays, 10 am – 4 pm, (269) 673-8292. Call to confirm hours or arrange for a private tour.
Email: oldjailmuseum06@yahoo.com Webpage: www.alleganoldjail.com

Children's Book Box – Immanuel Lutheran Church
Lutheran Church 631 Grand Street Allegan
Children can find free books in the Book Box constructed by the Sunday School Youth. Check it out.

Iron Bridge Quilters - Thursdays, 10am-2pm
Blessed Sacrament Church 110 Cedar St. Allegan
All ages and levels of expertise are welcome. Create a piece for yourself, for a friend or for a charity. Contact Claudia at acrasmussen5@gmail.com or (269) 673-4579 for more information.

Rivertown Fitness for All Ages and Families
Rivertown Gym & Fitness, 739 Airway Dr. Allegan. Check on the Core and More class. Call Todd at 269 686-7900 or email rivertowngym@gmail.com for additional information.

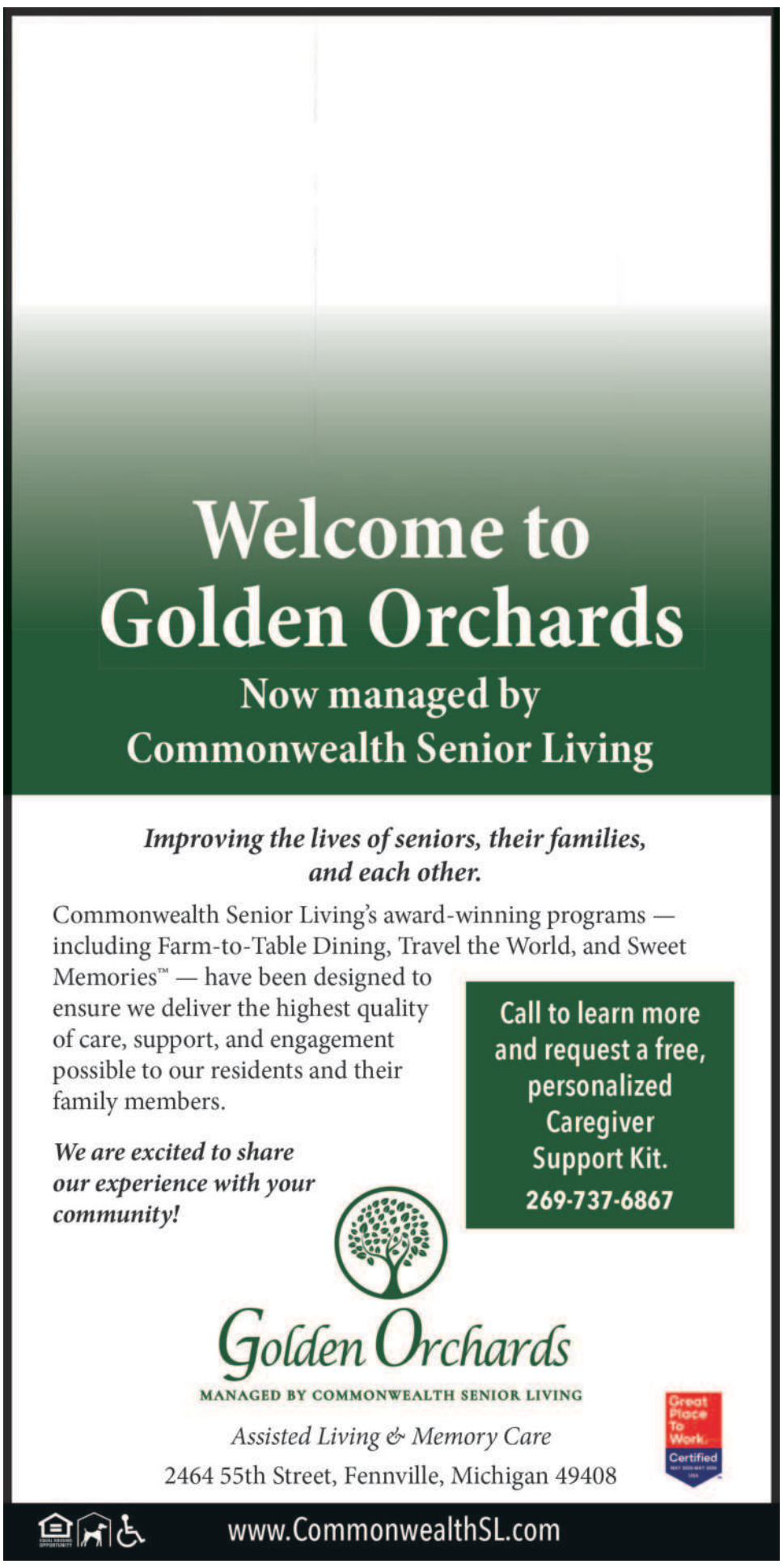
Scouting: Allegan has a variety of scouting opportunities. Each group is meeting in different ways to stay safe.
Cub Scout Pack 3026: Grades K-5. Call Cub Master Ron Gunter ron.f.gunter@gmail.com
Boy Scouts BSA 91 (boys 11-17 yrs.): Contact Scout Master Rob Keen 269 568-0435, eckeen1112@gmail.com
Girls Troop BSA 191 (girls 11-17): Contact Sara Keen sarajkeen@gmail.com.

Senior Fitness/Fit Over 50: Fun fitness designed for ages 50-80plus!
Hicks Gym, 311 E Plainwell Street, Plainwell. Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays at 9am. Drop in or call Sharrin at 269-330-3204 or email at denzgirllc@att.net.

The Fairways:
237 Hubbard St. Allegan (269) 655-5890
Get assistance with accuracy, distance, course management, club selection, or distance control. Work on a simulator, and treat it like a practice session at the course to achieve overall game improvement.

Tilt 118: Ice Cream, Pinball Machines, Food and More
Tilt 118 118 Brady St. Allegan
Pinball Leagues, Pinball Classes, Arcade Rental
Contact: Email: smalltownamusements@gmail.com; Phone: 269 720-8137

NOTE:
This Community Calendar is an opportunity for all organizations in Allegan County to post events. Please, remember to send your event information to editor@allegannews.com.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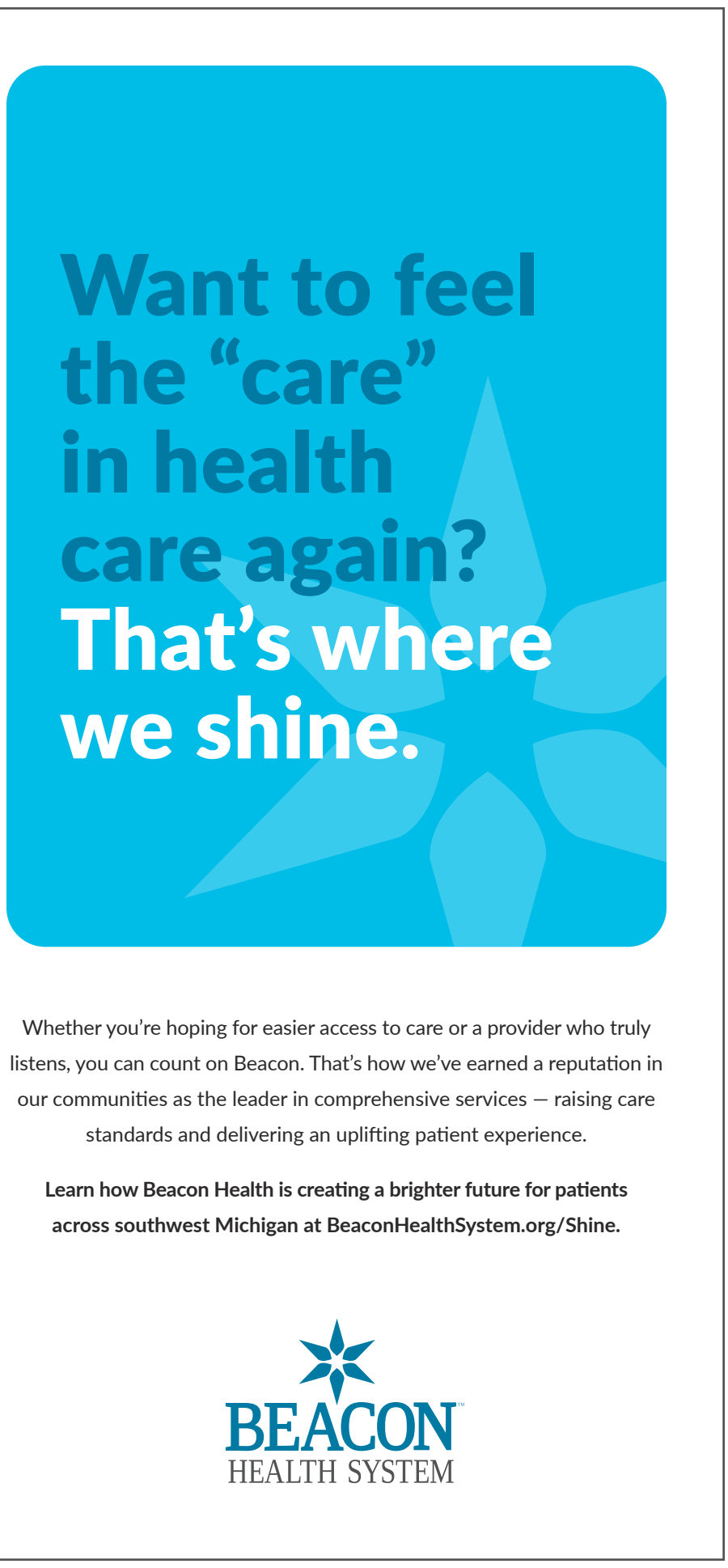
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"Pay It Forward" Is a Powerful Idea Worth Embracing

MIKE'S MUSINGS

MIKE WILCOX
■ PUBLISHER ■

In a world often overshadowed by cynicism, economic struggle, and divisive headlines, the simple idea of "paying it forward" offers a powerful counterbalance. It's a concept built on selflessness—doing something kind for someone else without expecting anything in return, trusting that the good will continue its journey. While it may sound idealistic, the ripple effect of one good deed can be transformative—not just for individuals, but for entire communities

I was the recipient of an act of selflessness this past weekend, and I'm still in awe that it happened. My fiancé and I were attending a big city movie theatre to see a film we were both interested in. We went to the kiosk and purchased our tickets and then headed to concessions to get a large popcorn, coke and beer.

The total came to about $40, and because I was struggling carrying my beer (I have essential tremor which means my hands shake horribly), the teenage attendant said, "I got this, you don't have to pay." I was flabbergasted. Here is a teenager paying for our refreshments. I said, "you don't have to do that." But he insisted. He said he had manager status and was able to pay for others a couple times a day.

I won't soon forget this and will be quick to pay it forward to others.

At its core, paying it forward is an act of generosity. It might be covering a stranger's coffee, mowing a neighbor's lawn, or donating supplies to a struggling school. These seemingly small gestures carry a disproportionate weight. They remind us that empathy and kindness still exist, even among strangers. In a society that too often encourages competition and individualism, paying it forward reintroduces the value of community and shared humanity.

Importantly, this principle fosters a cycle of goodwill. When people receive an unexpected act of kindness, they are more likely to feel inspired to help others in turn. Psychologists call this "moral elevation"—a warm feeling that encourages prosocial behavior. One kind gesture becomes two, then four, then more. It's exponential generosity.

There's also a practical side to all this. Paying it forward helps build social capital. When communities are rooted in mutual respect and helpfulness, they function better. People are more likely to look out for one another, cooperate, and solve problems together. Neighborhoods feel safer. Schools thrive. Local economies improve as trust builds between people and businesses.

Critics might say that acts of kindness are no match for systemic problems. And while it's true that paying it forward won't solve inequality or injustice overnight, it contributes to a healthier social climate. Grassroots goodness can complement top-down reform. If we want to build a more compassionate society, we need both.

Ultimately, paying it forward is about hope. It's about believing in the idea that one person's actions matter, and that we all have the capacity to make life a little better for someone else. In times of division, that's a lesson worth spreading.

So next time someone holds the door, covers your lunch, or offers a hand without asking for credit, don't just say thank you. Pass it on. The world could use more of that. I know I will.

Do the
Local Thing
Shopping in town helps local shops, cafes and restaurants, and the business owners who make them unique! When you shop local the whole community benefits.
ShopLocal

The Allegan COUNTY NEWS

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the UE Otsego & Plainwell UNION ENTERPRISE

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ADVERTISING DEADLINES
4 P.M. Monday

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Life as Performance Art

G CORWIN STOPPEL

A week or so ago I quoted from Mark Twain who wrote, "History doesn't always repeat itself but it often rhymes." We often see that happen in our country, and it is probably true of other countries, as well. The cause or action may continue to change, but the themes are often the same. As I write this in mid-July, it looks like there is going to be a change. I'm just not certain if it is for the better or worse.

The wonderful thing about a firmly established republic or republican-democracy form of government is that leaders can legally be replaced, peacefully with ballots rather than with bullets. Our United States the Constitution spells out the length of a politician's term: Two years for a Representative, four for a President, with an option to renew, and six for a Senator. Add to that term limits established by some states.

Other countries have their own system. For example, in Canada and England, a Prime Minister is elected for a five-year term, but if things are going well, he or she can call for an election before the end of the five years. Even so, sooner or later, they get the proverbial sheet cake and are replaced. Other countries, such as Greece and Italy, seem to constantly hold elections because their leader never has a solid majority, and must create a coalition government of several parties. It works out for a short time, and then they squabble. Think of it in terms of sports teams who constantly fire managers and coaches and replace them with someone new. With it comes the eternal hope that this time things will be better.

When ballots are used instead of bullets, the world rarely waits in apprehension and fear. We just shrug and hope we can pronounce the name of the new office holder, and that he or she will be a good one.

Winston Churchill once pointed out politics is messy, but must understand that a democracy is the messiest, and yet gives people the best chance to live in freedom and peace.

History shows us what happens in autocracies, and it is rarely good. When things turn sour, they often end very badly. It is far worse than a mere change of rulers. Tyranny begets more tyranny and bloodshed. Two examples from the last century, Russia and Germany, explain this cycle.

The Romanovs had been the czars of Russia since the 1600s, and were increasingly abusive, repressive, and out of touch with the lives of their subjects. Joining them in this abuse was the Russian Orthodox Church. Not surprisingly there were assassination attempts on the czars and bishops, some of which succeeded, followed by even more repression. Then in 1914, Russia was caught up in World War One.

Their first engagement with the Germans, at the Battle of Tannenberg, was a complete fiasco for the Russians. Almost half a million soldiers were killed or captured, and the rest hastily retreated. The defeat was demoralizing for the civilians, and all the more so with constantly higher inflation, conscription, and shortages. The situation was ripe for Lenin to lead the Communist Revolution. In 1917, the Romanovs were arrested, exiled, and executed. Lenin became the new leader. Sort of.

Lenin faced many opposition groups and armies, and Trotsky was put in charge of the Red Army to deal with the opponents. Soon Trotsky became dangerous because he had power and knew too much. When Lenin died in 1924, perhaps pushed along by Stalin, Stalin knew he had to get rid of his rival, Trotsky. At first, he was exiled to Siberia, and then his citizenship was taken away and he fled the country.

Trotsky was exiled but remained in contact with the Russian officer corp. Stalin perceived them as a danger and began executing officers and enlisted people. The result were the purges and show trials of the 1930s. As for Trotsky, Stalin sent his thugs who whacked him with ice picks in Mexico - the better to warn people that he had power well beyond Russia. Soon Stalin feared the judges and executioners, so he liquidated them. The pattern continued until Stalin died following a stroke. After chaos and confusion, Khrushchev gained absolute power, and the better to cover his tracks, he ordered the execution of Beria and other high-ranking officials from Stalin's government. Others were given a one-way rail, unheated boxcar class, ticket to Siberia.

The rise and fall of Hitler is well known. Although he was legally elected to office, he relied heavily on two different groups to keep him in power. On the one side was the giant military-industrial-banker complex. Opposite them were his street thugs, the SA, better known as the Brownshirts, under the leadership of Ernst Rohm. These brawlers took sadistic delight in hurting others, especially Jews, socialists, LBGTQ people, and foreigners. Nor surprisingly, the more they trampled the rights of 'outsiders' the more popular the Nazis became. In fact, by the early summer of 1934 they were so successful, Hitler saw the SA as a threat. He changed on June 30 to July 2 in what became known as the "Night of the Long Knives." Several hundred Brownshirts were murdered by the SS and others. Then, within 35 days, Germany transformed from a republic into a dictatorship.

We know the ultimate results of the policies of these two tyrants, as well as their own end. All of it happened because of anger, jealous, and greed. They share some important lessons to teach us.

First, every successful tyrant has to have an obedient group of followers who are willing to make him into their demigod. They must be united in their belief that their political hero is wise, never makes a mistake, and must always be obeyed because he is the smartest man in the world. When Stalin addressed the Supreme Soviet, his loyalists applauded, and they kept applauding until he gave them permission to stop. Anyone who did not last the ten or more minutes was soon picked up in the middle of the night by some men in black coats and were on their way to a gulag.

Second lesson for wanna-be dictators is that there must always be one sneaky, no-good, nefarious enemy trying to destroy the dictator and subjects. Stalin had Trotsky and other high-ranking officials; Hitler had Stalin and could point to Russia and Stalin as dangerous communists, then claim that he alone could stop them.

Number three, dictators and tyrants never, ever, ever run out of potential enemies. The Bavarian corporal understood that. He went after the LBGTQ communities, the mentally ill, the severely handicapped, trade unionists, Lutherans, Catholic, and the Jews. Once his army crossed into Eastern Europe, he turned the worst of his thugs on the Slavs. They followed orders and rounded them up for deportation, or in the countryside, immediately executed their enemies.

As Twain pointed out, history doesn't always perfectly repeat itself, but it does rhyme. Our democracy of always going to be messy and fragile but we must always stand up to tyrants at home or abroad who seek to destroy it and our freedoms.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Reader disapproves of Rep Huizenga's voting record

Dear Editor and Honorable Mr. Huizenga:

We use the term "honorable" because it seems more respectful than some others that come to mind. We certainly don't want to be disrespectful. So please consider our respect for you to be the same as that which you have for all the people who voted for you.

Congratulations on being named Most Effective Congressman of the Michigan delegation to Congress! Congress was established by our Constitution to provide checks and balances on the other two branches of government: the Executive and the Judiciary. Being an Effective Congressman carries a heavy responsibility. Foremost among those responsibilities is to represent the interests of the 700,000 people in this district . Generally, that means actually listening to the people rather than sending out half-truths and misinformation as you try to sugarcoat the damage your votes are doing to this great nation.

Recently, you sent another AI-generated email and photo explaining all the wonderful benefits for common Americans which are contained in the One Big Billionaires Bill which you were effective in getting passed. The grin on your face as you watched it being signed into law by the person hiding the Epstein files tells us how pleased you are with your effectiveness.

No taxes on tips or Social Security sound like terrific ideas for as long as those provisions last but they sunset after the 2028 Presidential election. Also, most people working in jobs where they depend on tips pay so little tax beyond a standard deduction that they will not see much change in their incomes. It would make more sense to have felony convictions for employers who steal those tips. In addition, very few Social Security recipients are liable for taxes beyond the standard deduction, so most will not benefit. Still, these provisions provide empty promises you can tout while hiding from any accountability. Very effective!

The child tax credit increase is a terrific idea, too. Another $200 in a family's pocket will go a long way toward buying new shoes for a year. Of course, the cost of those new shoes is going up due to inflation caused by tariffs. Then, once SNAP and Medicaid go away, that $200 will go to paying for other things like food and medical care if they can still afford the increased insurance premiums. You say you want to ferret out "waste, fraud, and abuse" in the Medicaid system. Your approach is kinda like during the Vietnam War, when troops destroyed villages to "save" them.

Here's a thought experiment for you. Obama likes to play golf. How would you have reacted if he had requested $300 million to support his golfing habit like the current White House occupant? Lots of waste, fraud, and abuse there for you to effectively address.

These cuts to Medicaid will have a ripple effect across healthcare in the United States. People on Medicare and ObamaCare (ACA) will end up paying more and getting less. Many program costs will be passed to the states, resulting in little savings. Sure, this might reduce the cost to the federal government but the costs of healthcare will skyrocket. Once again, you and your colleagues escape accountability by delaying these cuts until after the next election. Very effective!

Isn't it great you effectively voted for $170 million to form the largest paramilitary in our nation? Now this unaccountable military is rounding up people who, by working to feed their families, also contribute huge sums to the nation's economy and to tax revenue. It will be a wondrous sight to see all those young people who have been living in their parents' basements rush out and get jobs in packing plants, tomato fields, and as hotel janitors and maids. No more illegals taking those jobs! Meanwhile, the folks who have been incarcerated because of the color of their skin are housed and fed in inhumane conditions at taxpayer expense. Quite an "effective" use of the national treasure.

Something you left out of your email was any mention of the massive tax cuts for the wealthiest. That is such a significant achievement, one would think you would be hawking it like a sideshow barker. It's clear those folks need more taxpayer-funded welfare to buy yachts and other luxuries. It's just great you voted to balloon the national debt to fund all that. Our kids and their children are the ones who will pay for those tax cuts while the appetites of the wealthy become more insatiable. You really pushed your effectiveness to the limit getting this enacted into law.

When will you take your Article 1 responsibilities seriously and actually represent the common people of this district? When will you and your colleagues fulfill your Article 1 responsibilities of ensuring checks and balances between the three branches of this government?

You've proven quite well how effectively you represent the wealthiest Americans. Unfortunately working people are the ones you hurt.

If readers would like to tell Rep. Huizenga how effective he is, call 202-225-4401

William and Mary Jones

Letters to the editor

Columnist misquoted Ben Franklin

The July 3 Allegan News column Life as Performance Art misquoted Benjamin Franklin's statement after the 1787 Constitutional Convention. Twice!

According to the National Constitution Center and the Library of Congress, Franklin's reply was, "A Republic, if you can keep it."

The form of government that rules "by law, not the whim of a single individual or a small group" or even a majority is not a democracy. Only with a republic could the US Constitution provide for "officials and citizens alike ... checks and balances so the rights of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness would be protected."

Was this a test of Allegan County residents' knowledge of the American Founding? If so, the lack of immediate correction indicates we failed miserably.

The columnist is correct about Franklin's warning, and the difficulty of our day is the same as it was then.

Somehow, we must extricate ourselves from elite and majority passion to grant special rights to some, by violating the life, liberty, and property of others.

Maintaining our Republic requires self-government in every sense - ruling one's personal life; electing our own government; and holding our representative officials to high, unchanging standards. Probably the chief standard is that government cannot create new rights. It can only defend (or violate) the ones God gave us.

To informed citizens, and maintaining our great American Republic!

Best,
Abigail Nobel, BSN, RN, MA

Reader asks voter to support Fennville bond proposal

Dear Editor,

I am writing to express my strong support for the upcoming Fennville Public Schools bond proposal, which offers our community a responsible and forward-thinking solution to long-overdue infrastructure needs—while lowering the tax millage rate for local taxpayers.

This bond is not just an investment in buildings; it's an investment in the future of our children and the strength of our community. Many of our school facilities are outdated and in need of repairs or upgrades to meet modern safety and accessibility standards, improve energy efficiency, and support 21st-century learning. From leaky roofs and inefficient heating and cooling systems to outdated learning spaces and aging technology, the list of needs is real and pressing.

What makes this proposal especially noteworthy is its financial stewardship. By being fiscally responsible and paying off the 2006 bond early the district can finance these necessary upgrades while reducing the millage rate. A lower tax rate and better schools is a win/win for our community, our kids, our families and the educators that invest so much in our children.

Supporting this bond is not only a wise financial decision, but also a vote for safe, modern learning environments that benefit every student and attract families to our community. Good schools increase property values, grow our local economy, and reflect our shared commitment to future generations.

Let's come together to make smart investments and leave a legacy of strong, safe schools for our children. Please join me on August 5th in voting YES on the school bond proposal.

Sincerely,
Dan Rastall
City of Fennville

Campit campsite would risk our aquifer

To the Editor.

In response to the ACN article , Ganges Township Residents Object to Proposed Campsite

The proposed Saugatuck Meadows RV Resort will be built in the backyards of residential homes. Residents who built believing they would be exempt from commercial development as their property is is in Residential/Agriculture zoning.

They now might have up to 712 people in their backyards, 178 vehicles, and 89 campfires. No consideration is being given to the health and welfare of these local residents!

Our aquifer is also at risk, as there is no water treatment plant in or near Ganges Township. There is already reduced water pressure for those near the end of the aquifer, and there are wells going dry. This is a farming community. Our Farmers need the water more than vacationers!

Kim Kittredge-Mannion
Ganges Township

Obituaries

Michael E. Finn, 75

Michael E. Finn, age 75 (AKA "Mike", "Micky Finn", " Harold") passed away from this life on July 13th in the arms of his loving wife, Rhonda.

Mike was born on September 9, 1949 to Harry and Mary (McDermaid) Finn in Alpena, MI. The family moved to Cheboygan when he was 3 years old. Mike graduated from Cheboygan Catholic High School in 1967, attended Alpena Community College and graduated from Michigan State University in 1973. Mike was a life long, ardent Spartan!

While attending MSU he worked for the Michigan State Police in the crime lab which led to his career in Criminal Justice. He worked for the Allegan County District Court as a Probation Officer for over 30 years, eventually becoming head of the department. Mike was a popular fixture in the Allegan social world and made many lifelong friends through work and the Long Branch Saloon.

Mike had many interests. He loved photography and nature, so he would only hunt with his camera. He was an avid reader. He loved Great Lakes freighters (he was a proud boat nerd) and even had the chance to travel on them twice. He served as a board member of the Great Lakes Lighthouse Keepers Association (GLKKA) in his retirement. He loved the "Mighty Mack" (Mackinaw Bridge) and delighted in taking many friends to the top of the north tower, regaling them with some

Michael E. Finn

of his famous one liners, much to everyone's amusement.

Mike loved his friends and he made a lot of them, starting at an early age. His annual fishing trips with a group of friends from childhood were legendary. He had wonderful trips to Green Turtle Cay with friends from Allegan. He traveled extensively and was always ready for the next adventure. He was known for his sense of humor and love of life.

After more than 30 years of special friendship, he married Rhonda (Ziegler) on September 15, 2015. During their almost 10 years of marriage, they were able to travel with friends and family on cruises and other trips and spent many winters in Florida.

Mike is survived by his loving wife, Rhonda; sisters Sue (Finn) Shortino (Leonard) of Colorado and Lori Finn Ziegler, of Grand Rapids; brothers-in-law Dave (Jan) Ziegler of Lansing and Jim Ziegler of Cheboygan; nephews and nieces Abby Erhorn (Tyler) of Grand Rapids, Meg Boore (Joey) of Grand Rapids, Patric Shortino (Lauren) of Colorado, Carrie Ziegler Thomas (Adam) of Wisconsin, Amy Chambers (Jeremy) of Petoskey; great nieces and nephews Hudson, Brady, Nora, Benett, Henry, Annabelle and Alice. Mike was predeceased by his parents, Harry and Mary Finn, brother-in-law Mike Ziegler and sister-in-law Sue Ziegler.

Special thanks go to the caregivers at Linda Margaret's Retirement Community for their kindness, compassion and loving care these last few months; and to the team at Advisacare Hospice of Charlevoix for their guidance and tender care. Special thanks also to Pat Schertzing for her love and support during Mike's illness.

We believe Mike now has a whole new audience for his one liners, which would certainly be a big part of his idea of heaven!!

A visitation will be held Friday, August 15th from 4:00 - 8:00 p.m. at Nordman Christian Funeral Home, 302 S. Huron Street, Cheboygan, MI 49721. The Memorial Service will be held on Saturday August 16th at St. Thomas Lutheran Church, 312 S. Western Ave. Cheboygan, MI 49721 at 11 a.m.

In lieu of flowers, the family suggests donations in Mike's memory to GLKKA, 707 N. Huron Ave. or St. Thomas Food Pantry, 312 Western Ave. Cheboygan, MI 49721.

Hanford Arthur Brink, 82

Hanford Arthur Brink, 82, of Allegan, died peacefully surrounded by his family on Monday, July 14, 2025, at Briarwood Assisted Living. He was born to Arthur Harold Brink and Gladys Estella Conley in Grand Rapids, Michigan on September 27, 1942. He grew up with his two younger brothers, Jon and Terry, on the family farm in Fennville, Michigan, where they spent their summers playing softball in the field at "Brink's Memorial Stadium."

After graduation from Fennville High School, Hanford served two years in the United States Army including one year overseas in Thailand. He could not wait to get home and upon doing so, met Eilene Lynne Truax. They were married on August 16, 1969, at Allegan United Methodist Church where they have remained members to this day. Their family would grow in the following years with the birth of their children, Terri and Jeff.

Hanford split his working years between Rockwell International in Allegan and Brooks Beverage in Holland. He was deeply religious and always involved at Allegan United Methodist. Recent years found him volunteering countless hours at the church's Hands of Grace Food Pantry. He also volunteered for Wings of Hope Hospice, Kids' Hope, and was a Court Appointed Special Advocate for Safe Harbor Children's Advocacy Center.

Hanford was fiercely competitive on the softball diamond - where he coached the church league team - and at the pepper table. He was sure to grab a deck of cards just as soon as the dishes were cleared at every family gathering. The family hauled various travel trailers all over the

Hanford Arthur Brink

State of Michigan and beyond as members of the Port-A-Beds camping group and the annual camping trip to the United Methodist Church Camp in Pentwater was always a highlight of Summer. He loved ice cream, babies, the Detroit Tigers, and traveling the United States with Eilene.

Hanford is survived by his wife, Eilene; children, Terri (Mike) Maule and Jeff (Kristen) Brink; grandchildren, Aaron Maule, Matthew Maule, Joshua Maule, Madeline Brink, and Isabelle Brink; brothers, Jon (Joyce) Brink and Terry (Nancy) Brink; and Sisters-in-Law, Marguerite Perrigo and Jeanne (Ron) Plummer. Along with his parents, Arthur and Gladys Brink, preceding him in death are his Sister-in-Law, Christine Brink; and Brothers-in-Law, Rob Truax and Bink Perrigo.

The family thanks the staff at Corewell Health Hospice and Briarwood Assisted Living for their compassionate care.

A memorial service will be held at the Allegan United Methodist Church, 409 Trowbridge St., Allegan, MI 49010 on Friday, July 18, 2025, at 2:00 PM followed by an Ice Cream Sundae Bar in the fellowship hall. Visitation will precede the service beginning at 1:00 PM.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be directed to either the Hands of Grace Food Pantry or the Trustees Fund, both at Allegan United Methodist Church.

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KLSWA manager fired, chair resigns

By Scott Sullivan
Writer

The Kalamazoo Lake Sewer & Water Authority board voted 3-1 at a special meeting Friday to terminate 14-year manager Daryl VanDyke.

At their regular session three days later, members accepted the resignation of senior member Barry Johnson as chair, naming Abby Bigford interim chair in his place.

Bigford, the board's Saugatuck Township representative, joined Douglas's Greg Freeman and Jennifer Ludwick in favor of VanDyke's firing. Saugatuck city rep Joe Clark was opposed while peer Johnson was not present Friday.

Freeman told Douglas City Council at its Monday meeting board had longstanding issues with VanDyke over behavioral issues "that should have been addressed years ago.

"We deemed termination necessary and it took effect immediately. Facility locks and computer access have been changed.

"Mr. VanDyke has an attorney and we anticipation litigation so it's wise we speak carefully. It's a new day at Kal Lake," Freeman said.

The board has appointed operations supervisor Kaz Bjac interim manager to assure continuity of operational oversight while members seek to permanently fill the full-time post, Bigford fir

Public services will continue without interruption during this transition, she went on.

"The people who work there now know how to make the plant work," Freeman said.

KLSWA, in its 40th year, is dedicated to providing safe and reliable drinking water and sanitary sewer services to the communities of Saugatuck, Douglas and surrounding areas.

Today, it operates from its 6449 Old Allegan Road headquarters 20 public sanitary sewer lift stations, six wells, a treatment plant, water storage reservoir and an extensive network of sewer piping and watermain.

"We are committed to being there 24/7/365, responding to emergencies and ensuring that our communities have clean water they can trust," KLSWA's mission statement says.

Its 5-member board is appointed for 3-year terms and meet the third Monday of each month at 10 a.m. in KLSWA offices, unless noted otherwise.

65-year-old arrested on drug charges

A 65-year-old man was arrested after police seized 112 grams of crystal meth Tuesday

Executing a warrant on 66th Street near Baseline Road, members of Southwest Enforcement Team (SWET) and Allegan County Sheriff's Office (ACSO) seized 112 grams of crystal methamphetamine, a digital scale, packaging materials, and other evidence of drug distribution, resulting in the arrest of a 65-year-old man who was already on probation for dealing drugs, according to Michigan State Police (MSP) officials.

The man, whose name was not initially released, awaits charges on possession with intent to distribute and maintaining a drug house, both second offenses.

Lakeshore Advantage and Community Foundation plan Developer Day

By Gari Voss

Allegan County has identified the need to develop housing across the county. To investigate ways to meet this need, the Michigan Economic Development Corporation (MEDC) is working with the Allegan County Community Foundation (ACCF) in partnership with Lakeshore Advantage to gather developers, realtors, municipal leaders, and financial institutions to explore housing possibilities in Allegan County.

Developer Day 2025 will be Thursday, August 7, 2025. This event will be a tour that begins at 9:30am at the Next Center, 65 E. 7th St., in Holland and ends at 4:30pm back at the Next Center. Tickets are available on the ACCF Event Callendar https://allegan-foundation.org/community-calendar/.

Organizers believe, "This fast-paced motorcoach tour will spotlight residential and mixed-use development opportunities in Allegan and Ottawa Counties. The tour will showcase residential and mixed-use sites across five Allegan County communities. Attendees will receive critical insights into local housing demand, infrastructure readiness, zoning, and community development priorities directly from local officials and planners.

"You'll gain insights into sites ripe for residential development and emerging mixed-use development, as well as a behind-the-scenes look at recent wins, touring sites currently under development for a well-rounded look at the region's potential for community and economic expansion."

From this experience, real estate developers, construction firms, and related industry professionals are expected to leave with an understanding of the possibilities in several Lakeshore region communities, as well as connections with real estate development industry professionals and experts.

"Across Allegan [County] we have great local leaders leaning into creating opportunities for housing, and Master Plans and zoning guides are great resources to promote that," said Chris Kleinjans, Community Impact Officer at ACCF. "But there's nothing like putting all the pieces needed to build housing together on a bus—landowners, municipal leaders, developers, and funders—and showing them the land and introducing them to the people who are ready to work together. We're thrilled to partner with Lakeshore Advantage to spotlight some of the county's most exciting development opportunities."

Developer Day 2025 is designed to foster collaboration, remove barriers, and spark momentum for housing development in Allegan County. With many communities facing housing shortages, this event provides a unique opportunity to align community needs with private investment and public resources.

In summary, the organizers have planned:

- Site visits in five Allegan County communities ready for development.
- Local presentations from municipal leaders, planners, and economic developers.
- Networking opportunities with key stakeholders in housing and finance.
- On-the-ground insights into zoning, incentives, and infrastructure.
- Bus transportation and lunch included.

There are limited seats, so it is suggested to signup soon with Lakeshore Advantage at https://allegan-foundation.org/community-calendar/ and scroll to Developer Day 2025.

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PUBLIC LIVE ON-SITE AUCTION
80 ACRE FARM with BUILDINGS
(Will be offered in 7 individual tracts or any combination of tracts - utilizing the multi-tract bidding system)
Tuesday, July 29, 2025
Auction starts at 5:30 pm
Located at:
743 25TH St.
Otsego, MI 49078

Real Estate Located at: 743 25th St, Otsego, MI 49078, Trowbridge Township, Allegan County, Otsego Public School district. Known as Allegan county parcel ID 21-013-004-00 containing 80 acres.

Tract #1: 10 acres of farmland & some wooded area with 2 story farmhouse, 2 car garage, timber framed bank barn with stave silo, work shop, other outbuildings, with 601' of frontage on 25th St.

Tract #2: 10 acres of farmland with 601' of frontage on 25th St.

Tract #3: 10 acres of farmland with 50' of frontage on 25th St.

Tract #4: 10 acres of farmland & some wooded area with 50' of frontage on 25th St.

Tract #5: 20 acres of mostly wooded land with 660' of frontage on 25th St.

Tract #6: 10 acres of woods with some frontage on 25th St. and 660' frontage on 108th Ave.

Tract #7: 10 acres of woods with 660' frontage on 108th Ave.

The above 7 tracts to be offered in singular tracts &/or any combination of tracts utilizing the multi tract bidding system.

Real Estate Terms & Conditions: Buyer to pay 10% down as earnest money deposit at the conclusion of the real estate auction. The balance of the purchase price to be paid at time of closing. Keep in mind that your bidding is NOT contingent upon financing or inspections, so be certain that you have arranged for financing or inspections, if you need them, and are capable of paying the balance at closing. This property is being sold subject to trustee approval.

Closing: Approx. 45 days after auction.

Possession: Day of closing on buildings & woods, hay fields after the 2025 hay season.

Taxes: To be prorated to date of closing.

Open House Date: Monday, July 7 from 4:00-5:00 pm

Auctioneer's Note: Lewis & Lambright, Inc., Redwood Realty, the auction company, & the auctioneer are agents of the sellers. Statements made by lead auctioneer during auction take precedence over printed matter. Check the ad on Auctionzip for more pictures of the property.

Personal Property Live On-Site Auction
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Auctioneers Note: This is just a partial list, more photos of this auction on the auction posting on www.auctionzip.com

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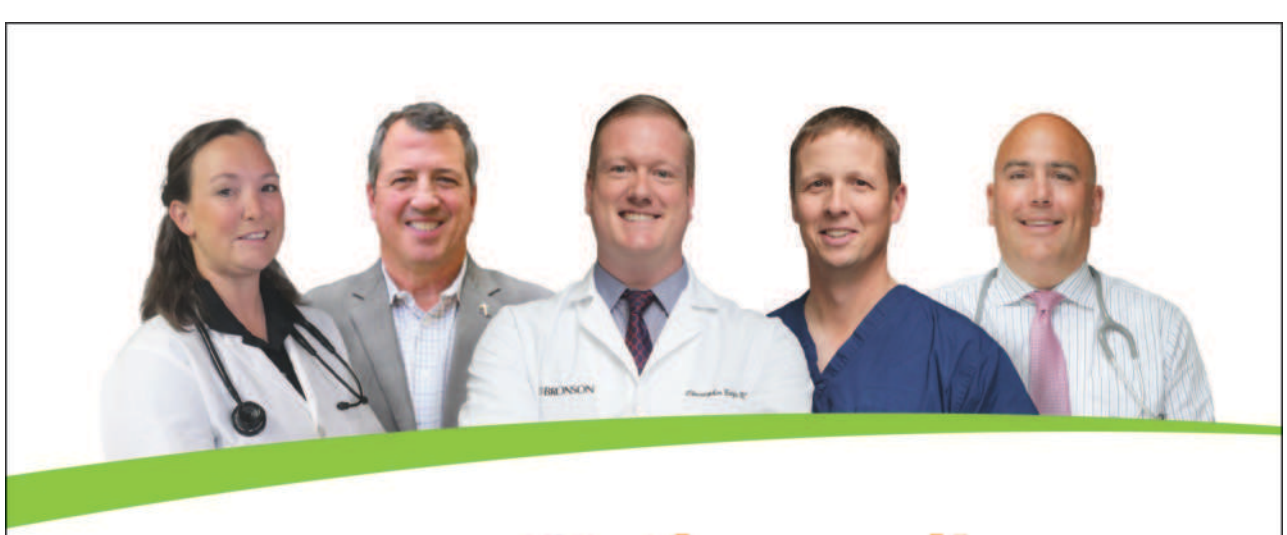

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Book Review: A Real Emergency

The Bookworm Sez

"A Real Emergency: A Memoir"

by Joanna Sokol

c.2025, Strange Light
$18.00 • 464 pages

By Terri Schlichenmeyer

It's feast or famine; tear through a task, then you don't.

Isn't that always how it goes? You spend hours stomping out metaphoric fires and just when you think you're done, another flares up. You run like crazy half the day with ten seconds to breath between crises, repeat as necessary. You're either wrecked by mile-a-minute motion or, as in the new memoir "A Real Emergency" by Joanna Sokol, you deal with someone else's wreckage.

What was the worst thing you ever saw?

That's perhaps the most frequent question Joanna Sokol gets when people learn that she was a paramedic for fifteen years. She obliges with appropriately ugly tales of heart attacks and car wrecks, sick kids and homeless folks.

"Yes, I am fun at parties," she quips.

Her path to a career at the rear of an ambulance began with a "biology program at a competitive university" but the coursework was harder than Sokol expected. Unhappy about being stuck indoors, she cut classes to go snowboarding and hiking before fully dropping out of school to work a series of random jobs that introduced her to rescue personnel and firefighters. Their tales influenced her to shell out $272 for Emergency Medical Technician classes.

She soon realized that being an EMT was "fun" but paramedics were paid better.

Four years afterward, Sokol was finally accepted for a two-year paramedic program, she got licensed and found a job in Reno, then San Francisco, both of which were close enough to the ocean for off-time surfing. Her job was to save lives and offer comfort which, she says, is often what people really want – but there was also boredom, nonsensical work-rules, and patients she got to know, enjoy, and others who left her with stories to tell.

"In the United States," she says, "we have this thing… this phone number you can call...

"To me, the most incredible thing is... say you need help, and there we are."

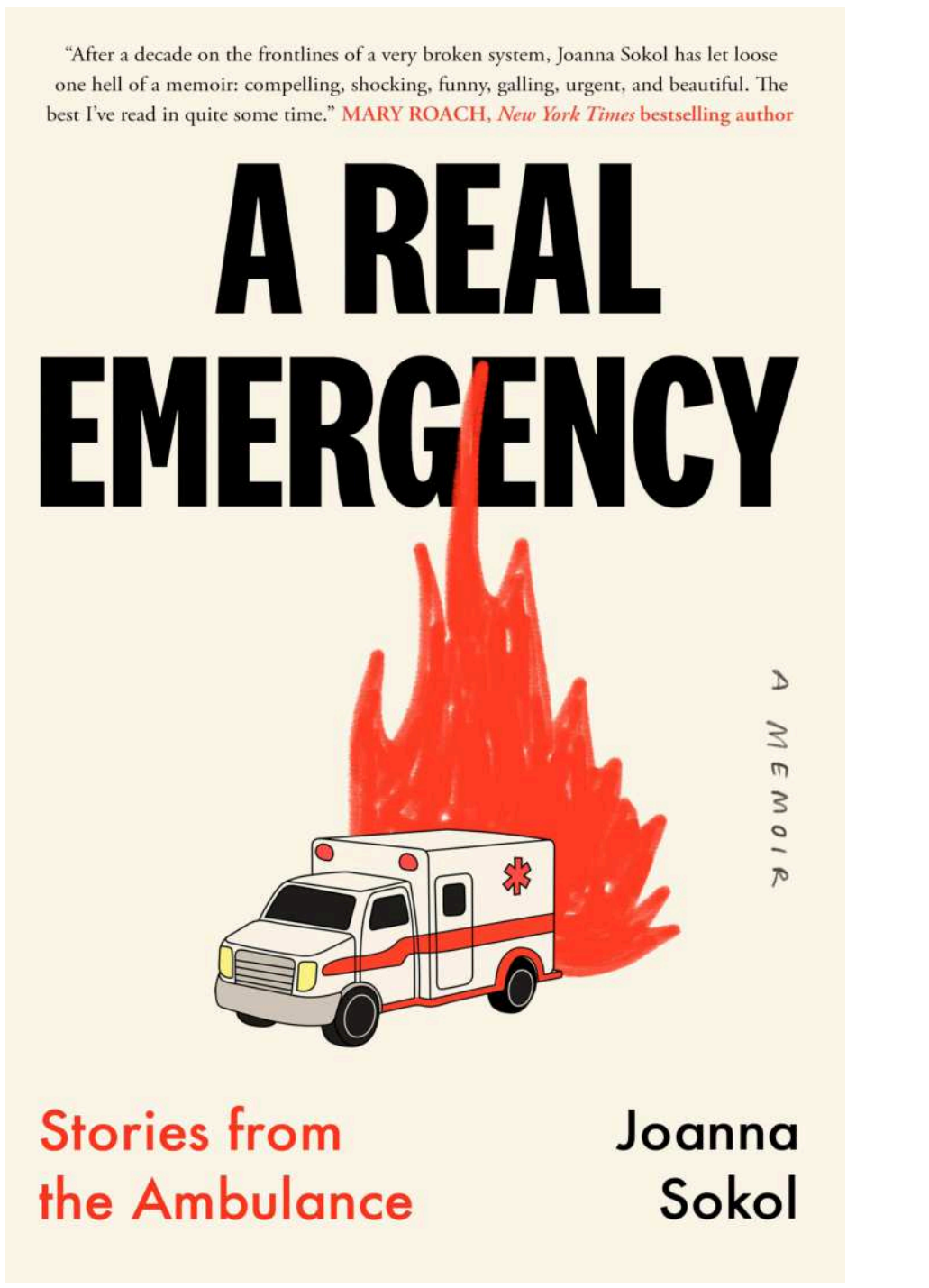
You know you want to know. Even if you're squeamish, if the sight of corpuscles makes you woozy, you know you want to read the stories author Joanna Sokol tells in "A Real Emergency." Fortunately for your shaky stomach, they're not all blood-and-guts.

Instead, Sokol is balanced and thoughtful in this memoir, writing about her coworkers and the job just as much as about the patients she's tended. There's gruesomeness, but in proper doses and not gratuitously. Readers get a good sense of what EMTs and paramedics do – yes, there's a difference – and with that comes outrage at how budgets and corporate ownership affects the work they do and the care we get. Sokol offers relief from this with stories of her own down-time, funny moments, tales of the miraculous, and words from other paramedics that add to her recollections. It's a mix that's appealing, even to the squirmingest of readers.

This book is excellent for true medicine fans, grateful former patients, the curious, and for anyone who'll ever need healthcare. Find "A Real Emergency" and you'll tear right through it.

All the books the Bookworm reviews here are available at the sponsor of this column:

Allegan District Library


"After a decade on the frontlines of a very broken system, Joanna Sokol has let loose one hell of a memoir: compelling, shocking, funny, galling, urgent, and beautiful. The best I've read in quite some time." MARY ROACH, New York Times bestselling author
A REAL EMERGENCY
A MEMOIR
Stories from the Ambulance
Joanna Sokol

Consumers Energy to Perform Overnight Work on 7/26 in Pullman

Consumers Energy will be making upgrades to deliver electricity more reliably in Pullman, performing substation maintenance in the area around the intersection of 56 St. and 109 Ave.

The overnight work will temporarily interrupt electricity to about 2,500 homes and businesses from 11 p.m. Saturday, July 26, until as late as 9 a.m. the next morning. It's part of Consumers Energy's Reliability Roadmap, an effort to reduce the number and length of power outages in Michigan.

"The substation maintenance work will ensure that equipment is in good working order as part of our commitment to build a more resilient and efficient electric grid," said Chris Laird, vice president of electric distribution at Consumers Energy. "We appreciate our customers' patience as we carry out this essential work."

Postcards have been mailed to affected customers in the area. Consumers Energy often schedules work like this overnight, when many people are asleep, to minimize disruptions to businesses or other activities. If work needs to be rescheduled, the backup date is Saturday, Aug. 2, from 11 p.m. to 9 a.m.

Customers should call Consumers Energy at 800-477-5050 if they have questions or concerns.

Notice of Public Hearing on Increasing Property Taxes

The Board of Trustees of the HENIKA DISTRICT LIBRARY will hold a public hearing on a proposed increase of 0.0407 mills in the operating tax millage rate to be levied on property in 2025

The hearing will be held on Tuesday, August 12th at 6pm at Henika District Library, 149 S. Main St, Wayland, MI 49348

The meeting to take action on the proposed additional millage will take place at the regular board meeting directly following the hearing at 6:30pm.

If adopted, the proposed additional millage will increase operating revenues from ad valorem property taxes 3.11% over such revenues generated by levies permitted without holding a hearing. If the proposed additional millage rate is not approved, the operating revenue will increase by 2.97% over the preceding year's operating revenue.

The taxing unit publishing this notice, and identified below, has complete authority to establish the number of mills to be levied from within its authorized millage rate.

This notice is published by:
HENIKA DISTRICT LIBRARY
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Call 269-686-5164 to arrange for this service. Please allow 3-5 business days advance notice for scheduling.
If you or a family member is in need of support services please visit: www.allegancounty.org/Referral or call: (269) 673-3333

Letters to the Editor

Campit article missed a few sticking points

To the Editor.

Re: Ganges Township Residents , Object to Proposed Campsite

I would like to thank you for the thoughtful article on Campit. You covered some of the issues surrounding this controversial "campground". However, some of the main sticking points were excluded.

I have owned my home approximately a half mile from the camp for over 25 years. I have witnessed the progressive decline in our quality of life as the camp has expanded…more traffic, trash, noise (I can hear them despite the ordinance limiting noise to 50 feet from a property) and clear violations of our building codes that go uninspected and unpunished.

What is less obvious to nonresidents is the abrogation of the stated township policy that property use should maintain the character of the surrounding properties. In addition, the many visitors not only consume resources, but they contribute very little to the local economy. Most of the 'campers' (aka partiers..Campit should be required to have an adult cabaret license if you look at the list of entertainment) spend very little money outside the camp.

That our elected officials would even consider granting an expansion to this parasitic invasion is shameful. I encourage them in the strongest terms to listen to their constituents and vote NO on any expansion of Campit and YES on a moratorium for future campsite developments in Ganges Township.

Dr. Gregg T. Greiner DVM

Don't let Campit expansion pass

Dear Editor:

This proposed RV park expansion does not meet the necessary requirements for the Township's Special Land Use application. The main reason it is still being considered is because the developer will sue the Township if not approved. Ganges Township currently has an outdoor entertainment ordinance in place aimed to protect property values and rural character. This same developer violates this on a weekly basis at its current operation across the street from the proposed expansion. When asked to abide and follow the proper process for outdoor entertainment the developer has instead started legally challenging the ordinance. Basically, being a good neighbor and following the rules is not profitable, therefore it ends up in court.

Out of town/state developers and investors buying up and misusing local properties with zero regard for the surrounding community is becoming a big problem statewide. Residents need to support our local leaders and not allow Ganges Township to be exploited.

Aaron Kronemeyer

We Deserve Better Than Bill Huizenga

Dear Editor:

Before Rep. Huizenga ("Huizenga") voted in favor of the "One Big Beautiful Bill Act" ("OBBB"), I emailed him to ask him to vote NO. During President Trump's ("Trump") first term, Trump oversaw a roughly $8 trillion increase in the federal debt. The debt surged, most say, due to his tax cuts and emergency spending related to COVID. The OBBB projects to add $3 trillion to our national debt. In addition, I thought cutting nearly $1 trillion to Medicaid was a huge mistake. Increasing the military budget by another $150 billion seemed unnecessary. For these reasons alone, I urged Huizenga to vote NO.

Huizenga, nonetheless, voted as Trump wanted, i.e. YES.

On Friday, July 11th, I received a form email from Huizenga defending his YES vote. One has to FACT CHECK everything in 2025. There is too much to discuss in the Huizenga email, so I will discuss the whoppers I read.

First, Huizenga wrote that Congress delivered on Trump's promises. I went to "whitehouse.gov" March 11, 2025. Trump titled the following as FACT CHECK. It read: "The Trump Administration will not cut Social Security, Medicare or Medicaid benefits. President Trump has said it (over and over and over again.)" So clearly cutting Medicaid by nearly $1 trillion over a decade is a BROKEN PROMISE.

Trump fired reportedly 18 Inspectors General late on Friday January 25th without the required 30 days notice to Congress as required in the Inspector General Reform Act. Departments affected included the Department of Health and Human Servip. es ("HHS"). Christi Grimm was Inspector General.

General Grimm had oversight of both Medicaid and Medicare. Her job was to root out waste, fraud and abuse. Audits, evaluations and investigations are tools used. In 2024, the Medicaid improper payment rate was estimated by some to be 5.1%. The notion that there is an enormous amount of waste, fraud and abuse in the Medicaid program is simply false.

Fraud against Medicaid is mostly committed by providers. The solution is to retain the nonpartisan Inspector General, follow the money and prosecute any criminals. The solution isn't to, according to the Congressional Budget Office ("CBO"), simply cut nearly $1 trillion from Medicaid spending over a decade.

Monique Stanton, president and CEO of the Michigan League for Public Policy said: "Instead of investing in state and fraud control units or prosecutors who will actually stop abuse, Republicans in Congress voted to take away people's health care and use the money to pay for new tax breaks for billionaires and wealthy corporation."

Second, Huizenga wrote that "the top 1% (sic) will actually pay more in taxes (sic)." This is false. FACT CHECK: The top 1% of earners will likely see a CUT or.an increase in their after tax income. This is according to the Tax Policy Center. The Institute of Taxation and Economic Policy ("ITEP") estimates that, over a decade, the top 1% would receive $1 trillion in tax cuts from the OBBB.

Third, Huizenga wrote "No Tax on Overtime." He failed to disclose that this is capped at $25,000 in "qualified" tips. This provision is available for tax years 2025 through 2028. Tips must be reported by the employee to the employer for payroll tax withholding. Social Security and Medicare (FICA) will still be withheld and paid.

Fourth, Huizenga wrote that middle- and low-income seniors will see their tax "burden" significantly reduced by $6,000 for individuals and $12,000 for couples. This is misleading and false. There is. a provision in the OBBB that introduces a new bonus tax "deduction." This is not a credit. The deduction reduces the amount of your income which MIGHT lower or eliminate your tax. This deduction expires after the 2028 tax year.

Fifth, Huizenga wrote that the "OBBB is Jet Fuel for our Economy." He declared that the OBBB is estimated to unleash $1.5 trillion in small business economic growth. Huizenga omitted any discussion of Trump's on again off again ever changing chaotic tariffs. Tariffs push prices in the United States up. They are typically inflationary.

We pay the tariffs typically as the importers seek to alleviate the burden.

Nikki Haley, according to the conservative Wall Street Journal on October 31, 2024 at page A7 was quoted as saying: "This (Trump) is a man who put us $8 trillion in debt who praised China's president Xi a dozen times after China gave us COVID ... a man who now wants to put 10% tariffs across the board, raising taxes on every single American." Tariffs are a tax. A tax on us, American citizens.

Sixth, Huizenga wrote that the OBBB strives to make life more affordable. He then pivoted to sparing family farms from the "death tax." However, most farm estates don't owe federal estate tax under current exemptions. Estate Planning typically avoids estate tax liability. Huizenga failed to note how we taxpayers bailed out wealthy soybean farmers in Trump's first term. The Department of Agriculture provided approximately $28 billion in aid to farmers as a result of the first trade war with China.

Seventh, Huizenga wrote that the OBBB is investing in our security by providing funds to "build the wall." Hells Bells, in 2016 Trump promised to build the most beautiful southern border wall and Mexico was going to pay for it. Do your research. He lied to you then. Trump lies now. Trump raided the Defense Department budget and built approximately 85 miles of new primary and new secondary barriers.

In 2016, Huizenga introduced himself at rallies as "a Christian, a conservative and a Republican, in that order." Christian first. His claim. I grew up hearing ministers quote Jesus Christ. Ministers taught that our nation would be judged as set forth in Matthew 25: 31-46.

The silence today from "Christian" leaders is deafening.

Jesus must be crying right now.

Taylor Sohns, MBA, CIMA, CFP has stated that there are four (4) groups that gain from the OBBB. They are:

1) Corporations and Investors,
2) High Income Earners,
3) Service Industry Workers, and
4) Fossil Fuel Companies. Sohns stated that there are four (4) groups that lose from the OBBB. They are: 1) Future Generations who will have to deal with the approximately $3 trillion added needlessly to our national debt, 2) Low Income Families in relation to healthcare expenses, e.g. Medicaid and changes to the Affordable Car© Act, 3) Healthcare Workers in relation to reduced healthcare funding, and 4) Clean Energy Sector.

PS As of the writing of this letter, Jeffrey Epstein was in the news. Prior to the 2024 presidential election, there was excitement in MAGA circles that sex trafficker Epstein had a client list. Attorney General Bondi told FOX News that it was on her desk waiting to be reviewed. Then Trump said there was no list. Bondi then echoed the notion that, shazzam, there is no list. Then Trump said there was a list but it was created by Obama, Clinton, Biden, etc. and it was fake. Using basic logic and common sense, if Trump's name was not all over the Epstein files, these files would have been released on January 20, 2025, unredacted, printed and bound in $500 special editions signed by Trump and recorded as an audio book narrated by Mel Gibson. Huizenga, we want to see the Epstein files.

W. DeHoek
Allegan

Ganges officials need to reject Campit expansion

To The Editor:

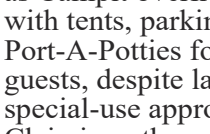
The recent article, "Ganges TWP Residents Object to Proposed Campsite" by Gari Voss, exposes a troubling reality - the Saugatuck Meadows RV Park is nothing more than an expansion of Campit Outdoor Resort and Entertainment and our township officials are letting it happen. Let's be clear. This property is already functioning as Campit overflow, with tents, parking, and Port-A-Potties for its guests, despite lacking special-use approval. Claiming otherwise is an insult to neighbors who have endured years of noise, disruptive behavior, and repeated violations of township ordinances.

Even worse, township officials seem determined to approve a commercial special-use for land zoned residential/agricultural, despite it failing all six standards required for such a change. The township's argument that Saugatuck Meadows is exempt from the new moratorium also doesn't hold water. Attorney Randy Schipper, representing a group of township residents, points to Michigan precedent (6th Circuit Court of Appeals, 2022) and argues that pending applications without "vesting rights" can be included in moratoriums. Currently, Saugatuck Meadows has no such rights. Yet, the township has refused to exercise the option to include them in the moratorium.

The consequences for our community will be severe if this RV park is approved. Neighbors already face obnoxious levels of loud music and crowd noise generated by hundreds of Campit guests, late-night parties, and activities continuing until 3 a.m. without event permits. The strain on our dwindling aquifer levels, property values, and emergency services will only get worse.

Residents have filed hundreds of complaints and attended meeting after meeting, yet nothing changes. At the July Township Board meeting and in response to what residents can do to hold their township officials accountable, John Hebert, Ganges Township Supervisor, dismissed her concern and inferred that residents were there to observe and not influence. Enough is enough. It's time for Ganges Township officials to enforce their ordinances, reject this proposed expansion, and start prioritizing the rights and quality of life of their residents over the interests of one business.

Regards,
Sue Mackey & Stephanie Hughes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The Linking Center parking lot brough young and old to admire the many cars and trucks on display for the Pullman Pride Day, July 19, 2025. Photo: G. Voss

Pullman Pride gathered the community to fill scholarship coffers

By Gari Voss

Pullman Pride Day on Saturday, July 19, 2025, brought the community together to enjoy a variety of activities while gathering dollars that would be added to the Dee Wesbey Scholarship Fund.

Residents and visitors could begin their day with breakfast at the Lee Township Fire Hall then stop at the Pullman Town Square and learn about Allegan County Lakeshore Cleanup, purchase crafts, listen to music, or buy homemade goods. Down 56th Street, the Car Show took front and center at the Linking Center, youngsters played on the playground equipment, seniors enjoyed a meal and conversation, and later in the day, everyone could get out of the heat to enjoy a movie.

Throughout the middle of the day, Joan Laraway made sure that people voted for the Cutest Baby, "old timers" shared stories at the museum, senior enjoyed a free lunch at the Linking Center while children enjoyed creating crafts and adults wandered through the cars on display. For the sports minded, there was disc golf behind Pullman School before the Corn Hole Tournament began at the VFW Hall.

A special thank you to the organizing committee and all who participated to ensure that seniors graduating in 2026 have an opportunity to receive scholarships for their post-high school endeavors.

Joan Laraway organized the Cutest Baby Contest with proceeds going for scholarships to assist high school graduates with college expenses. Photo: G. Voss

The Pullman Town Square was filled with arts, crafts, food and music during Pullman Pride Day on Sat., July 19, 2025. Proceeds from activities like the Cutest Baby Contest, Breakfast at the Lee Township Fire Station, the Corn Hole Tournament and vendors were donated to the Dee Wesbey Scholarship Fund. Photo: G. Voss

Allegan County Lakeshore Cleanup was on hand to share their work throughout the county. The workers were originally organized by Jim Dyer the cleanup the Allegan County shoreline and rural roads. The message was to support their efforts to minimize gas, dumping, and supply fees. All are invited to assist in maintaining trash-free roads and shorelines. They utilize these donations to offset fuel fees and dumping expenses. A drop-off container is located at 3549 115th Avenue, Allegan, MI. Alternatively, schedule a pickup by calling 269-650-0654. They are grateful to everyone who assists with cleanup and to Cheshire, Lee, and Trowbridge Townships that assist in covering the costs associated with disposing of the bags of garbage. They believe that community support is crucial to their continued efforts, and together, we can preserve the beauty of Allegan County. Allegan County Lake Shore Clean Up. Photo: G. Voss

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Several events planned for final week of Ransom's summer program

By Jason Wesseldyk
Sports Editor

The summer has been busy at Ransom Library, as various programs have been held in conjunction with the Color Our World Summer Reading Program.

And while the program is nearing its end, there's still plenty of excitement for children in the final week beginning Monday, Aug. 4.

"Our summer program may be winding down, but we'd love to have as many people come out as possible to enjoy the last week," Ransom assistant director Erin Marsh said. "We will have an outer space theme that week, and we have a lot of fun activities planned."

Those activities include:

* Make a Space Mural (Mon. Aug 4, from 10:30 a.m. to noon): Create rockets, space stations and aliens to go on an outer space mural in the Hill Room.

* Galaxy Bottles and Color Changing Slime (Tuesday, Aug. 5, from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m.): Try some out-of-this-world science and go home with two cool products of your work.

* Space-Themed Light Table Activities for preschoolers (Wednesday, Aug. 6, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.): This is right after Story Time, so parents can plan for a full morning of fun.

* Galaxy Art (Thursday, Aug 7, from 1-2 p.m.): Learn a painting technique for making out-of-this-world art.

* Yoga Adventures for Kids (Thursday, Aug. 7, from 10:30-11:30 a.m.): This session for preschool through fourth grade will feature a space theme.

For more information about these and other activities available at Ransom Library, visit ransomlibrary.org.

Christian Neighbors hosts Stuff the Bus event at Harding's Aug. 1-2

By Jason Wesseldyk
Sports Editor

Three times a year, Christian Neighbors hosts a Stuff the Bus event at Harding's in Plainwell to collect food for its food pantry.

The next Stuff the Bus is fast approaching, as it will be held on Friday, Aug. 1, and Saturday, Aug. 2.

Amy VanPutten, food program director at Christian Neighbors, said stocking the food pantry is more important than ever.

"Food visits to our food pantry are up approximately 17 percent from last year," she said. "Rising costs of groceries and loss of some federal funding has made it hard for families to provide."

Stuff the Bus events are held at times when demand for the food pantry tends to be at its highest levels.

"We strategically have these events at particularly busy times—in summer and around the holidays—where our pantry shelves start to get low," VanPutten said. "These food drives help fill our shelves back up so we can provide families with what they need heading into each season."

The bus, which is provided by Plainwell Community Schools, will be open for donations from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Friday, Aug. 1, and from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday, Aug. 2.

In addition to food, cash and gift cards will also be accepted. The cash and gift cards are typically saved to use when Harding's holds one of its "buy 2, get 3 free" meat sales.

Christian Neighbors will hold its next Stuff the Bus event on Friday, Aug. 1, and Saturday, Aug. 2. The event will again take place at the Harding's in Plainwell. (Photo provided)

"These are some of our most profitable food drives," VanPutten said.

In addition to donations, Christian Neighbors is looking for volunteers to work the bus during the event.

"We would love to have your smiling face greeting customers and asking for their help in restocking our pantry," VanPutten said.

To volunteer, email VanPutten at avanputten@christianneighbors.org or visit https://form.jotform.com/250615130257145.

"We appreciate Harding's so much," VanPutten said. "They generously donate bread and baked goods to our pantry weekly. And the drivers from Plainwell schools happily bring a bus to draw attention to the drive. We are so thankful for our generous community."

Activities at Otsego District Public Library provide plenty of summer fun

Otsego District Public Library has hosted a variety of events throughout the summer, providing patrons plenty of chances to get out of the house and have some fun.

One of those events was a foam party, which took place last month.

Members of the Otsego Fire Department were on hand, bringing out one of the department's truck and spraying a mister to help make the time even more enjoyable. (Photos provided)

SUMMARY

Otsego Township
July 14, 2025

The regular meeting of the Otsego Township Board was held on Monday, July 14, 2025, at the Otsego Township Hall. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 P.M. by Supervisor Winn.

Members Present: Winn, Colin, Lunarde-Alexander, Gudith, Moll, Burns, Bumgart.

Members Absent: None.

Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Approved Minutes from the June 9th regular meeting.

Approved bills in the amount of $144,696.03.

Approved the bid from Arnsman Septic Service and Excavating Inc. to clean-up the Sherman St. Blight, totaling $6,500, and approved placing a special assessment and tax lien against the property for the cost of clean-up.

Approved Planning Commission Case 25-02: Laws Rezone (R1 – R2), with stipulations, per the Planning Commission's recommendation.

Approved Planning Commission Case 25-03: Otsego Properties, LLC SPR, with stipulations, per the Planning Commission's recommendation.

Approved updated Water & Sewer rates as presented, effective 07/15/2025.

Adjourned the meeting at 8:09 P.M.

Submitted by: Jen Colin, Otsego Township Clerk.

CITY OF PLAINWELL

ALLEGAN COUNTY, MICHIGAN
ORDINANCE NO. 401

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE 199, ESTABLISHING THE PLAINWELL PARKS AND TREE COMMISSION.

CITY OF PLAINWELL, ALLEGAN COUNTY, MICHIGAN, ORDAINS:

Section 1. Amendment of Sec. 15-6. Operation is amended to read in its entirety as follows:

Section 15-6. Operation.

The Commission shall choose its own officers, promulgate its own rules and policies necessary to implement the objectives of this ordinance and shall keep a journal of its proceedings. A majority of the members of the Commission shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business. At a minimum, the Commission shall meet one time each year during the month of March.

Section 3. Severability and Captions. This Ordinance and the various parts, sections, subsections, sentences, phrases and clauses thereof are hereby declared severable. If any part, section, subsection, sentence, phrase, or clause is adjudged unconstitutional or invalid by a court of competent jurisdiction, the remainder of this Ordinance shall not be affected thereby. The captions included at the beginning of each Section are for convenience only and shall not be considered a part of this Ordinance.

Section 4. Repeal. Any existing ordinance or resolution that is inconsistent or conflicts with this Ordinance is hereby repealed to the extent of any such conflict or inconsistency.

Section 5. Effective Date. This Ordinance is ordered to take effect eight (8) days following publication of adoption in The Union Enterprise, a newspaper having general circulation in the City, under the provisions of 2006 Public Act 110, except as may be extended under the provisions of such Act.

ROLL CALL VOTE:
YES: Steele, Keeney, Wisnaski, Green and Keeler
NO: None.
ABSENT: None.

Declared adopted on: July 14, 2025
Published on: July 24, 2025
Effective on: August 01, 2025

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Thursday, July 24, 2025

Allegan's Chestnut relishes Cooperstown experience

By Jason Wesseldyk
Sports Editor

Playing a baseball tournament in Cooperstown, N.Y.—home of the National Baseball Hall of Fame—is an amazing experience.

Hitting your first ever home run there? That, as those MasterCard commercials say, is priceless.

And that's exactly what Allegan middle schooler Smith Chestnut did.

Smith was part of the Elite Bad Boys U12 baseball team—based in Grand Rapids—that participated in a recent tournament in Cooperstown.

"It's every baseball player's dream," Smith said of playing at Cooperstown. "I think that every kid should get to experience it because you get to meet new kids from all over. I met kids from all over the USA—California, Texas, Arizona, Washington.

"You get to play lots of baseball and have time for other fun, like whiffle ball. One of the coolest parts of Cooperstown is that you trade pins with all the kids. I now have a book full of all the pins from the teams that played there that week, something I get to keep to remember the trip forever."

The trip was also successful on the field, as Smith's team won a bracket championship and he connected for the first home run of his career.

"I felt so great," Smith said of hitting the homer. "When I was rounding the bases, all the parents and my teammates were going crazy. My dad (Andy Chestnut) got a video, which is a really cool memory. I was able to get the ball engraved, so I will have that forever."

According to Smith's mom Brady Chestnut, the experience was a surreal one.

"As parents, Andy and I experienced an overwhelming sense of pride," she said. "We are baseball fans, but more a fan of our kids doing the things they love. We knew the experience was going to be fun, but it definitely will be a core memory for the entire family.

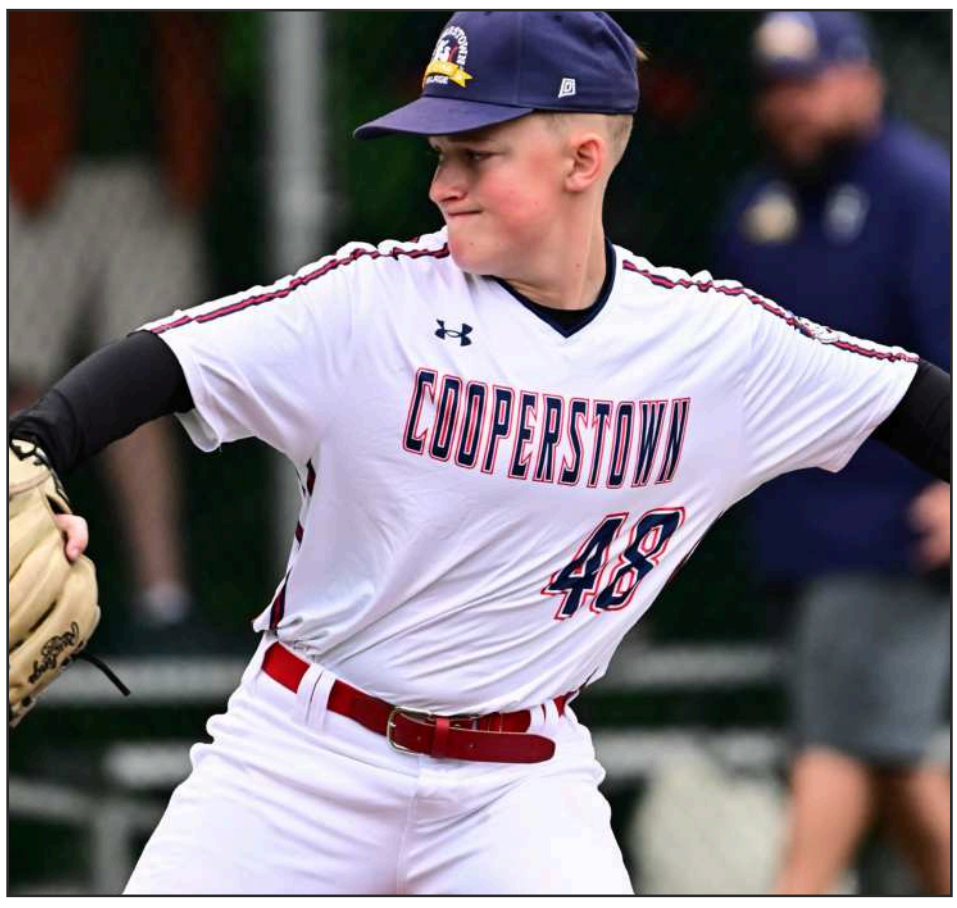
"Win or lose, (Smith) learned so much and met so many awesome kids. There is a sense of family for the whole tournament—cheering other players on, encouraging them when they are down and pushing yourself to get better. Smith works really hard, and it was great to see his work put into action and the joy on his face, especially when he hit his first home run."

The tournament began with pool play, with teams then being split into three brackets based on record.

"We played some really good teams," Smith said. "The competition was tough. We ended up in the lower bracket—the Monster Bracket—but we ended up winning all five of our bracket games. It was super fun."

As part of the trip, Smith and his teammates were able to tour the Hall of Fame, learning about some of the game's greatest players.

"They showed a movie at the Hall of Fame and that was the coolest part," Smith said. "The movie showed us how great all the players are, even years ago. And seeing all the players' jerseys and gear and how different it is now than when baseball started was really cool."



Allegan's Smith Chestnut is seen pitching during a tournament at Cooperstown, N.Y. He hit his first career home run at the event. (Photo provided)

The trip to Cooperstown isn't the only cool sports-related event for Smith.

He is also part of the Russell Wilson 3BRAND Youth Athlete of the Year contest, with voting starting on Monday, July 28.

"This was something I came across on social media," Brady said. "After doing some research, I decided to sign Smith up. Smith is a great baseball and football player, and you can tell he has a deep love of sports. But more importantly, he is an amazing teammate.

"He has always been social and sports are a great outlet, where he thrives. He is encouraging to everyone and always makes sure kids feel like they belong."

To that end, Smith participates in the LINKS program at L. E. White Middle School, which has allowed him to help others enjoy sports also.

"Also, Smith's cousin Charlie, who is also a baseball lover, was in a sledding accident in January and suffered a (traumatic brain injury). I know that Smith plays for him too. I believe he truly encompasses what it is to be the Youth Athlete of the Year."

Voting for the contest begins at 10 a.m. on July 28. Each person can vote one time per day until Thursday, Aug. 7.

"If Smith makes it to the top 20 on Aug. 7, then voting begins again and it keeps narrowing down," Brady said. "The final votes are cast on Oct. 17, so if Smith continues to make it through each round, you can vote one time per day until Oct. 17."

The link for voting is https://athleteoftheyear.org/2025/smith-9049.

Top Senior Student-Athletes: Saugatuck

Cass Stanberry

By Jason Wesseldyk
Sports Editor

To say recent Saugatuck graduate Cass Stanberry stayed busy during his high school days would be an understatement.

In addition to being actively involved in several leadership and service programs—including Interact Club, Be Nice, PALS and the Douglas Elementary Leadership Program—he was also a four-sport athlete for all four years.

In the fall, you'd find Stanberry on football field.

During the winter months, he'd be on the basketball court.

And come spring, he'd split his time between the baseball diamond and the track as a dual-sport athlete.

"I have been involved in athletics for as I can remember, especially because I had an older brother," Stanberry said. "Having him around made me an overly competitive person, so the aspect of competing and being on a team was what I loved most."

And he said he couldn't have asked for a better community to represent.

"Playing for Saugatuck and representing this community meant so much to me," he said. "Since Saugatuck is a small town, the support feels very personal. You know everyone, which makes it even more special. The encouragement from people in town has been incredible throughout my years, and I've truly been grateful for that amazing support."

While Stanberry enjoyed each of the sports in which he participated, he felt a special connection to the gridiron.

"Football has always been my favorite sport because it's what I grew up around," he said. "I started playing at a young age, following my brother, and it quickly became something that felt natural to me.

"I've always had a good instinct for the game, and what made it even better was the strong connection I had with my teammates and the support from my coaches over the years."

Not that it was always an easy experience.

During Stanberry's sophomore year, Saugatuck ended the season two games early due to safety concerns resulting from a lack of healthy players.

But with Stanberry helping to lead the charge—first as a full back during his junior year and then as quarterback during his senior campaign—the Trailblazers rebounded, going 8-3 in 2023 and 7-4 last season. Each of those seasons included a playoff victory and an appearance in a division championship game.

The playoff win during Stanberry's senior year came against White Pigeon, a team that had knocked Saugatuck out of the playoffs the previous three times they'd met. Stanberry scored all three touchdowns in the 24-22 victory.

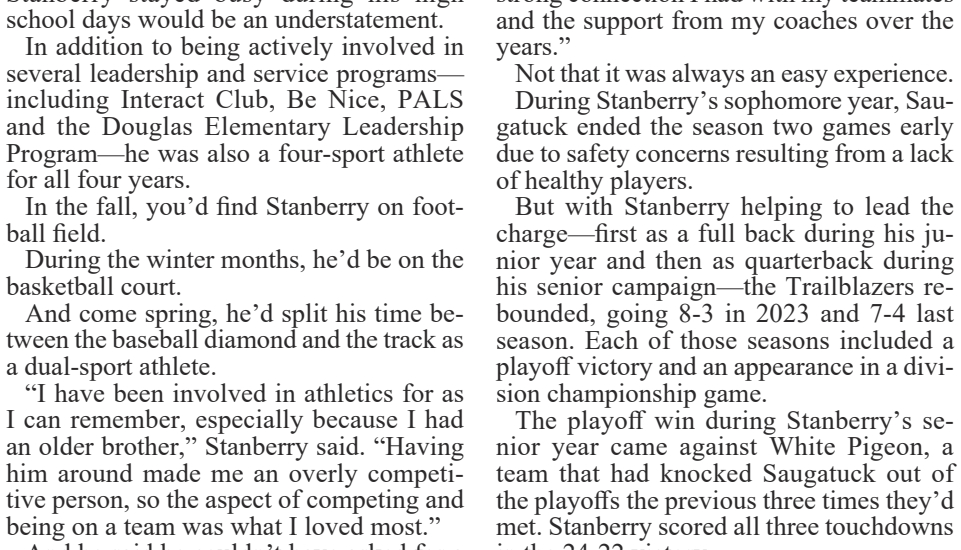
It should come as no surprise, then, that that victory is one Stanberry will remember for a long time.

"One of my favorite memories was beating White Pigeon in football during my senior year," he said. "They had always been a tough opponent for us, and many teams before us hadn't been able to beat them.

"We were heavily doubted going into that game, but proved people wrong. I had a great game personally, and the win felt special, not just for me, but for the whole program and our community."

Stanberry lists longtime Saugatuck varsity football coach Bill Dunn as one of his mentors.

■ see **Stanberry**, Page B2


Cass Stanberry took over at quarterback for the Saugatuck football team during his senior season. (Photo provided)

Kennedy Gustafson ended her high school basketball career with more than 1,000 points and 1,000 rebounds, becoming just the 32nd player in Michigan history to accomplish that feat. (Photo provided)

Kennedy Gustafson

By Jason Wesseldyk
Sports Editor

When she was in elementary school, recent Saugatuck High School graduate Kennedy Gustafson remembers noticing the distinct difference in crowd size for girls basketball games compared to boys basketball games.

"I asked my mom why there were not as many fans at the girls basketball games as there was for boys," she said. "My mom said, 'Your team has to be so good that they want to come watch.'"

Gustafson took the message to heart. And she did everything in her power to make Saugatuck girls basketball games must-see viewing for local fans.

During her four years as a member of the Saugatuck varsity squad, Gustafson helped the team to a 71-23 record. That included marks of 23-2 last year and 22-2 during her junior campaign.

And during her sophomore year, the team captured a district championship to end a 20-year drought in that department.

The community responded.

"During my high school basketball career at Saugatuck, the girls basketball program reached new heights and more fans came to watch," Gustafson said. "The Saugatuck community has been incredibly supportive throughout my athletic career."

While the girls basketball program at Saugatuck reached heights not seen in the program in two decades, Gustafson reached individual heights few in the state have ever reached.

In a non-conference game against Bridgman on Dec. 10, she scored 20 points to surpass the 1,000-point mark in career scoring.

Less than two months later, on Feb. 5, Gustafson snagged the 1,000th rebound of her high school career.

In doing so, she became just the 32nd female player in the state's history to join the 1,000-1,000 club for points and rebounds.

"Being the first player in the area to reach over 1,000 rebounds in a high school career and only the 32nd player with 1,000 rebounds and 1,000 points was pretty special," she said.

Longtime Saugatuck girls basketball coach Kevin Tringali agreed.

"When you think of how rich the MHSAA history is for basketball in our state, and for Kennedy to be one of 32 players to do that is an amazing accomplishment," Tringali said.

Given the success she enjoyed during her prep career, Gustafson became a fan favorite for many younger girls in Saugatuck.

"Young girls looked up to me and their families became some of my biggest supporters," she said. "The community has given me countless opportunities from summer jobs to leadership and mentoring roles helping shape me into the person I am today."

As talented as Gustafson is on the hardwood, she is equally as skilled on the soccer field.

A four-year starter in soccer like she was in basketball, Gustafson primarily anchored the Saugatuck defense as goalie, but also had some opportunities to come out of net and show her skills in the field.

■ see **Gustafson**, Page B2

Stanberry

■ from Page B1

"I've had many great coaches over the years, but Coach Dunn—and really the rest of the football coaching staff—has just been the greatest. They treat me and all their players like family. They can definitely be tough on us, but they're also the ones who want us to succeed the most. They're willing to push us, spend the time, and build real connections."

Stanberry shared similar sentiments about track coaches Rick and Angelina Bauer.

"Mr. and Mrs. Bauer have also had a huge impact on me for the same reasons," the said. "They truly believe in me, treat me like family, push me to be my best and show constant support. I owe a lot of my success to my coaches."

Next month, Stanberry will head to Michigan State University, where he plans to study supply chain management.

"Some of my goals have changed since my time in school and athletics, but overall, I'm focused on building new connections and opportunities for the future," he said.

Cass Stanberry specialized in hurdles and sprints for the Saugatuck boys track team. (Photo provided)

Cass Stanberry rounds second base during a game for Saugatuck last season. (Photo provided)

And he has no doubt that the lessons he learned through athletics will help him achieve his goals moving forward.

"I think athletics taught me a lot, but the biggest thing was how to handle stressful situations," he said. "A lot of the time, people aren't exposed to high-pressure moments, like game-time decisions. So when those situations come up in the real world, they're harder to deal with.

"I also think I learned the overall value of hard work and how important it is to carry that with you."

Gustafson

■ from Page B1

"Soccer and basketball have always been my favorite sports, and I've never been able to pick just one," said Gustafson, who also stayed busy with National Honor Society, Be Nice, Leadership Club, Spirit Crew, Cooking Club and being a Student Tutor. "They offer different challenges that I love.

"From being the last line of defense in soccer as the goalkeeper to the physical play of being a post in basketball, I loved it all."

Saugatuck girls soccer posted winning records in each of Gustafson's four seasons, including a 17-3 mark during her sophomore campaign.

For the final two years of soccer, Gustafson was coached by someone who played a big role in her development in the sport.

Jim Theis, who recently announced his retirement from high school coaching, was also Gustafson's club coach.

"Coach Theis has coached me since I was nine years old," she said. "He was my most impactful coach ever because he always believed in me pushing me to grow, even when I doubted myself. That belief made all the difference in my sports career.

It's a sports career that isn't finished just yet.

Because even though her time as Saugatuck is done, Gustafson will continue to play both basketball and soccer at Wartburg College in Iowa.

Wartburg has a strong NCAA Division III (athletic) program and I'm excited to play there," Gustafson said. "I will be majoring on biology education and plan to use my degree to become a biology teacher and a coach at the secondary level."

Gustafson, who began playing sports age three and immediately was drawn to them because they "challenged me to push my limits," will undoubtedly carry the lessons she learned through athletics in Saugatuck to Wartburg and beyond.

"Athletics shaped me into the leader I am today because it taught me to never give up despite what challenges you may face," she said. "I also learned that hard work and dedication to the sports you love can be incredibly rewarding. Those are lessons I can use throughout my life."

Kennedy Gustafson starred at goalie for Saugatuck. (Photo provided)

Kennedy Gustafson

MHSAA participation numbers hit six-year high

Michigan High School Athletic Association member high schools reported a combined participation of 275,684 athletes in MHSAA-sponsored tournament sports during the 2024-25 school year – the highest number of participants in those activities since 2018-19 and despite another decrease in combined enrollment across those 754 schools.

This past year's participation total was 5,020 students – or 1.9 percent – higher than in 2023-24, while enrollment at member schools fell by 1.3 percent. Boys participation was up 1.9 percent to 161,329 – also its highest since 2018-19 – and girls participation was up 1.8 percent to 114,355, its highest count since 2019-20. MHSAA participation totals count students once for each sport in which they participate, meaning students who are multiple-sport athletes are counted more than once.

Two sports set participation records during 2024-25. Boys track & field counted 24,759 participants – a 3.7 percent increase from a year ago in breaking its previous record from 2005-06. Girls lacrosse participation was up 0.9 percent from last year to 3,970 participants in setting a record for the second-straight season.

Another 15 sports saw participation increases this past school year. Girls tennis saw an increase of 6.4 percent to 9,485 athletes, followed by boys and girls wrestling's combined increase of 5.2 percent to 12,422 participants – with boys wrestling participation up 3 percent and girls up an incredible 24 percent to 1,505 athletes. Girls track & field (18,108 athletes) and boys cross country (8,209) also saw some of the largest jumps at 4.5 and 4.1 percent, respectively.

Also reporting increased participation during 2024-25 were boys tennis (3.7 percent, 6,163 total athletes), football (3 percent, 36,210), girls volleyball (2.9 percent, 19,679), boys golf (2.7 percent, 7,416), girls competitive cheer (2.4 percent, 6,319), boys basketball (1.7 percent, 20,541), girls cross country (1.4 percent, 6,826), boys soccer (1.1 percent, 14,112), boys bowling (1 percent, 4,333), boys swimming & diving (0.9 percent, 4,073), and girls soccer (0.7 percent, 11,090).

Although 11 sports saw participation decreases during 2024-25 from the previous school year, those for girls basketball (-0.4 percent) and boys ice hockey (-0.7 percent) were lower than the 1.3-percent enrollment decline at MHSAA member schools.

Football remains the most popular sport in terms of participation at MHSAA member high schools, with that total of 36,210 athletes its highest since 2017-18. Girls volleyball remained the most popular girls sport in 2024-25, with its 19,679 athletes the highest total since 2012-13.

The participation figures are gathered annually from MHSAA member schools to submit to the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS) for compiling of its national participation survey. Results of Michigan surveys from the 2000-01 school year to present may be viewed on the MHSAA Website—www.mhsaa.com—by clicking on Schools > Administrators > Sports Participation Listing.

The following chart shows participation figures for the 2024-25 school year from MHSAA member schools for sports in which the Association sponsors a postseason tournament:

	BOYS		GIRLS	
Sport	Schools (A)	Participants	Schools (A)	Participants (B)
Baseball	650/9	16,044	-	-/13
Basketball	741/2	20,536	689	13,063/5
Bowling	408/12	4,312	380	2,689/21
Competitive Cheer	-	-	335	6,319
Cross Country	658/3	8,205	626	6,826/4
Football - 11 player	522/65	33,427	-	-/79
8-player	132/12	2,692	-	-/12
Golf	535/46	7,333	390	3,970/83
Gymnastics	-	-	86	497
Ice Hockey	285/12	3,092	-	-/15
Lacrosse	173/11	5,023	134	3,194/15
Skiing	106	762	111	727
Soccer	485/13	14,063	470	11,909/49
Softball	-	-	616	11,368
Swimming & Diving	266/17	4,031	276	4,648/42
Tennis	288/15	6,133	328	9,485/30
Track & Field	685	24,759	677	18,108
Volleyball	-	-	731	19,679
Wrestling	503	10,917	379	1,505

(A) The first number is the number of schools reporting sponsorship on the Sports Participation Survey, including primary and secondary schools in cooperative programs as of May 15, 2025. The second number indicates the number of schools that had girls playing on teams consisting primarily of boys.

(B) The second number indicates the number of additional girls playing on teams consisting primarily of boys and entered in boys competition.

50 years punctuated by memories galore

By Gari Voss

Saturday, July 19, 2025, 89 graduates of the Allegan High School class of 1975 gathered at The Silo in Allegan for their 50 year class reunion. The greetings began in the early evening. Classmates were delighted to catch up with neighbors they do not see with frequency and others who moved away but returned for the occasion.

The graduating class was 200. Sadly, 40 plus had passed and several were unable to attend, but that did not dampen spirits. One plus was the appearance of five of the teachers and their spouses. 1974-75 was Gary Ellis' first year of teaching in Allegan. Others like Gene Detweiler, Mark Birkam, Al Skibbe, Betsy Skibbe, and Dick Hutchins had several years under their belts when the class of 1975 darkened the halls of Allegan High School.

As Planning Committee member Wendy Timmerman shared, "We had a BLAST planning the Reunion and are so happy for the great turnout and positive comments from those who attended!!"

The posters around the room included pictures from 1975, a memorial for classmates who had passed, and special events and the happenings from 1975. They all demonstrated the thought and conversations the planning committee had. During the evening, attendees loved the guidance of M.C. Bill Nahikian and D.J. Jim Garlock.

From the 50th Reunion Committee: "A heartfelt thank you to everyone who put time, energy, and creativity into this reunion and of course, everyone who attended! While we were reconnecting, reminiscing, laughing, hugging, and creating new memories, time ran short for the acknowledgements that were planned.

"Thank you to the many teachers that joined us – Mark Birkam (Alexa), Sue Eden (Ray), Gene Hutchins (Sharon), Al Skibbe, Betsy Skibbe, Eugene Detweiler (wife and daughter Gerri), and Gary Ellis (Connie). It was such a pleasure to see them.

"Thank you to the committee for tracking down classmates, gifts, decorations, slideshow, memorabilia table, and all of your hard work and dedication over this past year. It truly takes a village to pull off a reunion and you nailed it!

"Even though Julie Workman Frederick wasn't able to join us, a huge thank you for her AMAZING job with our class website. Thank you Diana Rice Charney for the beautiful memorial display of classmates that are no longer with us and to Jayne Masek Bailey for the prayer and the moment of silence for our classmates who have passed.

"Thank you, Jim Garlock for the greeting card he had printed for all of us to sign for the Edmund Fitzgerald 50th memorial anniversary.

"Thank you, Judy Sturgis Oram for the clever candy arrangements, and to Pam Peet Vermilye who wrote our class farewell speech 50 years ago and wrote & shared "Through the Years" at the reunion.

"Thank you all for the new memories that were made. Stay in touch! Post all those pictures that were taken to our class webpage or class Facebook page. Thank you, everyone, see you at our 55th Reunion!"

The class of 1975's planning committee worked diligently to locate and invite all members of the Allegan High School Class of 1975 to the 50th Class Runion at the Silo in Allegan on Sat., July 19, 2025. Committee members: Robin Garrett Laraway, Wendy Mayhew Timmerman, Chris Kiella Rice, Debby Ramey Burnett, Julie Beckers Sosnowski, Diann Rutgers Mancuso, Nancy Byron Ellis, Judy Hughes. Unable to attend was Julie Workman Frederick. Photo: Sarah Konecki

A true treat for the Class of 1975 was the arrival of some favorite teachers and their spouses. This was the frosting on the cake, since they brought their stories about the class' antics and achievements. Back: Gary & Connie Ellis, Mark & Alexa Birkam, Betsy & Al Skibbe. Front: Dick & Sharon Hutchins, Gerda & Gene Detweiler. Photo: Sarah Konecki

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Laketown Township begins negotiations with manager candidate

The Laketown Township Board of Trustees narrowed its manager search to a single finalist, choosing Stephanie Fox to be the first candidate to interview a second time.

Fox, the current executive assistant to the Mayor of the City of Kentwood, will participate in a community meet-and-greet at 11 a.m. Monday, July 21, 2025, at the Graafschap Fire Department station, 4534 60th St., then meet with and have lunch with the township staff, and then will take a tour of Laketown by Interurban bus, before a public interview at 6 p.m. at the township hall, 4338 Beeline Road.

After that interview, the board could vote to offer the manager position to Fox.

At their special meeting on July 15, board members said Fox answered the difficult questions during her 30-minute interview, examined the township audit thoroughly, and showed a strong moral character while being humble.

Of the four candidates for the manager position, Fox was the only applicant to receive unanimous support from the board members for a second interview.

Stephanie Fox was chosen as the only finalist to be interviewed for the position of Laketown Township manager. The interview is 6 p.m. Monday, July 21, 2025, at the township hall, 4338 Beeline Road.

The other three candidates for the position are Howard Fink, current manager at Park Township; David Grumney, current full-time administrative captain on training and health/safety at Graafschap Fire Department; and Lynne Ladner, former town manager of the Town of Ocean Ridge, Florida.

The board unanimously agreed to inform Fink and Grumney that they remain candidates for the position until the manager job is formally filled.

Longtime Manager Al Meshkin retired earlier this year. After finalists for the manager position declined offers in January, the board put the search on hold while members received training on the manager-council form of government from an outside firm and learned to better work together.

On June 11, the board unanimously agreed to begin advertising the full-time manager position with a salary and incentive compensation range of $115,000 to $135,000 not including benefits.

The board received 45 applications and chose five candidates to interview. One of the candidates withdrew so the board interviewed four.

Follow Laketown Township on Facebook, Instagram and Threads.

Faces in the Crowd

By G C Stoppel

It's the season for farm stands and farmer's markets. The question of the week: Do you go to them?

-Woman at Overisel Hardware, south of Douglas: "My dad lives in Ohio and he's got a big garden, about the size of a football field. He works it himself, and he's 85. He takes the produce out to a stand at the end of the drive, and let's people pay what they want. It's his idea of fun. I'm really proud of him."

-Man near the Fennville Post Office: "I don't, but the wife and kids do. It's sort of a summer outing for them. She does the shopping, and we're eating pretty good right now."

-Woman near the Fennville hardware store: "Yeah, I do. The stuff is fresh and doesn't come in a plastic box. I don't think I'm saving any money, but I like to support the local economy."

-Couple near the Blue Goose in Fennville: Man: "Nope. We grow our own. Right now, the beans are coming on. We have to pick them almost every day, and what we don't eat, she freezes for the winter." Woman: "You could help, you know, since you eat half of it."

-Woman with her: "I do, too, but I always wonder what they do with their leftovers at the end of the day. You know, the produce they don't sell. I hope they don't just dump it."

- Older couple and young boy near the Allegan Public Library: Man, "We sure do! Every Thursday, bright and early, we're there." Woman: "We've done it for a long time. Here, sometimes at a stand along the road, wherever. Right now, I'm waiting for the sweet corn." Boy, "Me, too! I love sweet corn! Sweet corn and peaches and blue berries. They're the best."

-Older woman near the Allegan Post Office. "I go once in a while. After my husband passed, I don't need so much for just me. But I like it. The other day I got some green peas, and it brought back memories of helping my mother shell peas. You get my age, and life is memories more than much else." Long pause. "I wonder, I've never heard of anyone having blueberry short cake, have you?"

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Peek at the Past

From the pages of The Allegan News and The Allegan County News and Gazette:

July 24, 1950

Father-in-law held in shooting: A 28-year-old war veteran who had consumed six quarts of champagne in an afternoon and was described as a "raving maniac" when drunk, was expected to survive the effects of a .22-caliber slug in his liver, according to doctors at Douglas Community Hospital.

The wounded man was Albert Strampel, of Saugatuck. Melbourn Powers, his 59-year-old father-in-law, had pulled the trigger on an antique squirrel gun which he had borrowed from a friend for "self protection."

Powers, better known as "Meb," was being held in the county jail until Strampel's condition is certain. Although there is danger of infection, it was believed that Strampel would live. In that case, the charges against Powers would be "assault with a deadly weapon."

The shooting occurred early Friday evening in the living room of the Powers home which is located on Center Street, Douglas, near its intersection with US-31. There were several witnesses to the affair, including Mrs. Powers, Roy Powers, a brother, and Mrs. Betty Strampel, the daughter.

July 24, 1975

DeLano Street mobile homes to stay: Two mobile homes which irked neighbors when they were moved in on DeLano Street in August 1973 will stay where they are following a court ruling by Circuit Court Judge George Corsiglia.

Corsiglia, ruling in a dispute between the Allegan Township board and trailer owners William J. and Mildred E. Whitcomb, said the trailers both were near enough to completion to escape requirements of an August 1973 Allegan Township interim zoning ordinance.

Whitcomb, prior to the enactment of the interim ordinance, had placed cement pads and installed electrical and sanitary facilities for two mobile homes—and had moved in one of the mobile homes.

The second mobile home, however, was moved in Aug. 22, 1973, nine days after the interim zoning ordinance was enacted.

The ordinance, nearly identical to one rejected by Allegan Township voters in November 1972 by 36 votes, requires a permit from the township board before a mobile home can be set up.

July 27, 2000

Riverfront Art Fair scheduled: The first annual Allegan Riverfront Art Fair will host two dozen craft and fine artists this coming Saturday, July 30, on downtown Allegan's riverfront boardwalk.

From as far away as Florida and Arizona and as close as Allegan, these artists will set up displays of their original work for visitors to the fair to view and purchase. A large range of art mediums will be presented: pottery, watercolors, stained glass, photography, ceramics, glass beads, jewelry, handmade paper, sandstone painting and others.

The fair has been juried, which means that all participants submitted pictures of their artwork for review by an arts council committee before they were accepted into the fair.

"We feel a certain responsibility to bring this opportunity to Allegan," said Robin Granger of the Allegan Arts Council. "Artists work in their scattered corners of the world and we so rarely get exposure to the different mediuams and ideas they are exploring."

Late last year, the Allegan Arts Council was encouraged by members of the Saugatuck-Douglas Art Club to put tother a summer art fair on the city's picturesque riverbanks. They felt that the setting would be ideal for such an event because of its charm and proximity to arts centers like Saugatuck.

July 23, 2020

Time to sell: Allegan readies to sell Brady Street lot to CL Real Estate for hotel: Putting its priority on developing 101 Brady St., Allegan City Council members appear poised to sell the vacant lot to CL Real Estate.

A discussion at the council's planned session Monday, July 13, directed city administration to begin publishing notices for a hearing next month. At it, they would ultimately vote to authorize staff to finalize a purchase agreement, in whatever form that may take.

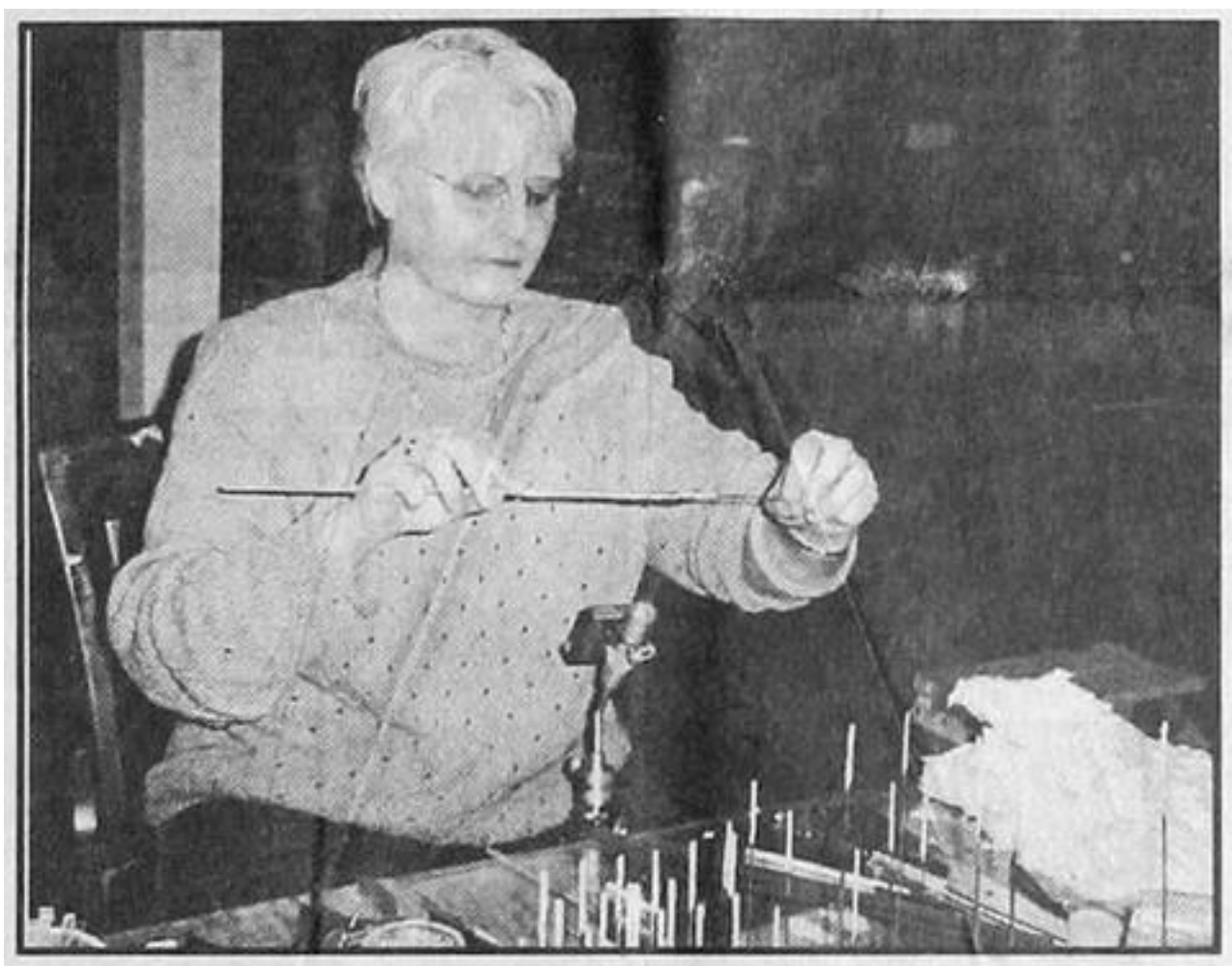
As it stands, council members will seek to sell it for $10,000 with conditions that mandate construction begin within 18 months. That amount is shy of the approximately $16,500 valuation estimated by local real estate agent Ben Otis, but it takes into account the work the company has done to prepare designs for constructing a hotel there including environmental studies of the property.

The deal is not expected at this point to include selling a portion of adjacent Second Street, which had been discussed to help widen the available space but would leave room for only one-way traffic.

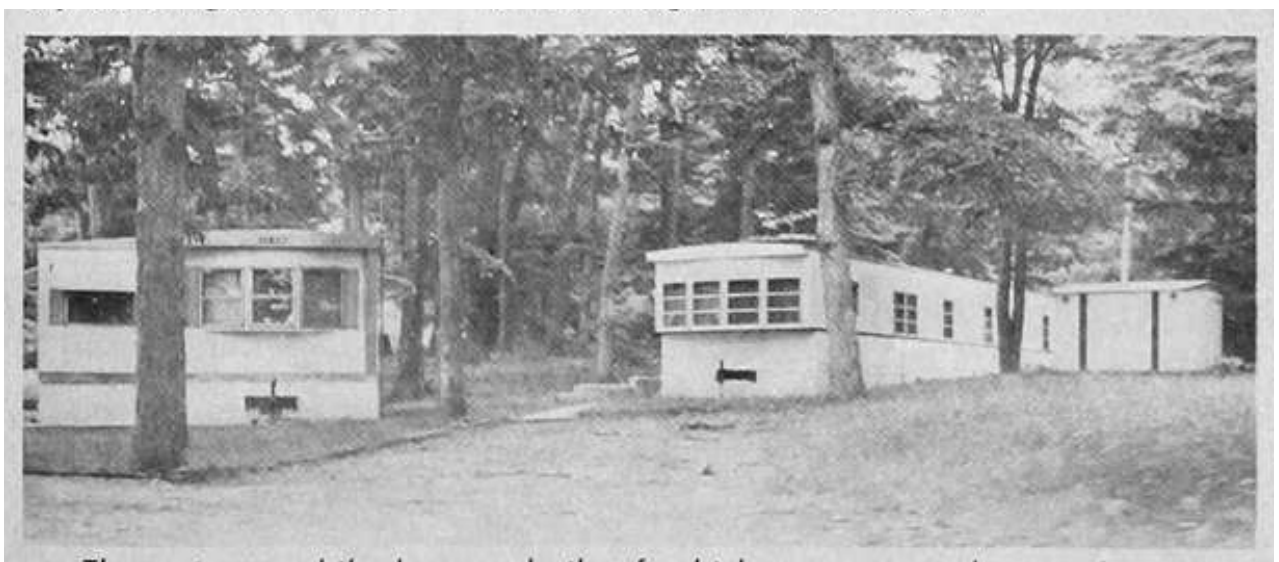
In late June, council members told staff to seek a deal with CL Real Estate—the Illinois-based developer that has proposed several designs for a multi-story hotel incorporating a restaurant—that included a "right of first refusal" clause.

It would have allowed the city to court other developers but would give CL Real Estate a chance to match any offer. Abonmarche, an architectural and engineering firm that advises the city on riverfront development, proposed the idea, noting that it was unlikely any other companies would come forth.

—Compiled by Jason Wesseldyk



Ellen Altamore, a glass bead artist from Allegan, carefully watches the position of her glass rod over the flame. As the flame melts the glass, it drops to the stainless steel rod in her left hand, wraps around the rod and creates the bead. (Photo provided)



These two mobile homes, both of which were moved into place on DeLano Street about the time Allegan Township enacted a temporary zoning ordinance, will likely stay where they are following a recent decision in Allegan Circuit Court.

Deaths

May 30, 2025
SANDRA LOUISE WILLIAMS, 76, Salem Twp

June 27, 2025
LINDA KAY LOGAN, 70, Leighton Twp.

June 30, 2025
GUILLERMINA RAMIREZ, 64, Leighton Twp.

July 2, 2025
DANIEL MARK PUTNAM, 69, Laketown Twp.
RANDY HUGHES, 65, Allegan Twp.

July 3, 2025
SHARON ROSE ROWDER, 82, Allegan
ELLEN ANN HURLEY, 74, HOlland

July 4, 2025
BEATRICE ELAINE BAZAN, 82, Allegan
ROBERT ENGEL, 87, Douglas
NANCY LEE DOROW, 86, Holland

July 5, 2025
GAVIN RAY SNYDER, 41, Allegan Twp.

July 6, 2025
ROBERT EDWARD GUERRIN, 92, Holland

July 7, 2025
BESSIE MARIE ANDRESS, 93, Gun Plain Twp.
DARCIE ANN MERRIWEATHER, 56, Manlius Twp.

July 8, 2025
RALPH STEARS MCMAHON, 83, Clyde Twp.
ROBERT WILSON SANDERSON JR, 77, Laketown Twp.

July 9, 2025
ROGER JAY MULDER, 84, Fillmore Twp.

July 10, 2025
HERBERT KIRK WICKS, 82, Plainwell

Marriages

The following people applied for a marriage license between July 8 and July 16:

JOSHUA LEE BOWEN, Plainwell, and **EBONY SUE SISSON**, Holland

JONATHAN LOGAN MCHANEY, Hamilton, and **KRYSTA NOELLE VANDYKE**, Hamilton

SAM EDWARD FOWLER, Allegan, and **HEATHER RENEE JORGENSEN**, Allegan

CLAYTON JOHN EDNEY IV, Otsego, and **FAITH ILENE WEAVER**, Otsego

TORI ESTELLE CLEVENGER, Allegan, and **GEORGE BENJAMIN BOWATER V**, Paw Paw

TODD MITCHEL BUSH, Zeeland, and **SHAWN ELYSE BYRNE**, Hamilton

LYNN ANTHONY MORRIE II, Allegan, and **SHELLY LYNN REED**, Allegan

EMILY MARIE MCDONALD, Holland, and **JOSHUA GLEN KLEIN**, Hamilton

VICTORIA FAITH FOLKERT, Hamilton, and **GAVIN JOSEPH VANDERKAMP**, Hamilton

CHRISTINA MARIE CORTES VILLASENIOR, Fennville, and **BRAYAM HERNANDEZ PEREZ**, Fennville

BRIANNA MARIE VOSS, Plainwell, and **JACK CHARLES SCOTT BARNHART**, Plainwell

CALEB ISAAC YONKERS, Wayland, and **KELSIE LEANN BREDEWEG**, Caledonia

DANIEL JON KRUITHOF, Hamilton, and **KIMBERLY SUE LUBBERS**, Hamilton

JEFFERY ALLAN SMITH, Allegan, and **MICHELLE MARIE EMMONS**, Allegan\

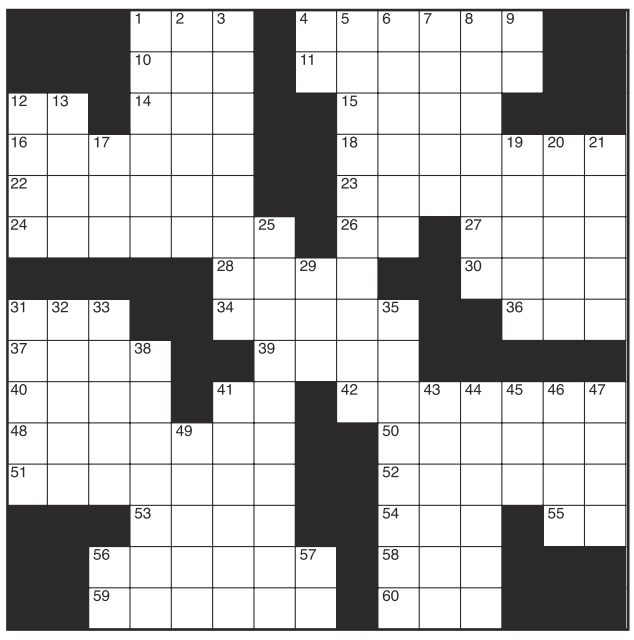
SUDOKU

Fun By The Numbers
Like puzzles? Then you'll love sudoku. This mind-bending puzzle will have you hooked from the moment you square off, so sharpen your pencil and put your sudoku savvy to the test!

6		7						
2			9	4		6		
	5							
1								
			5					
	4				7	5	8	
		2		5		9		
3	8			2				1
			8		6	3	2	

(See Solution Page B7)

Crossword



CLUES ACROSS
1. Pacific Standard Time
4. Extracts through heating and melting
10. Express delight
11. More curvy
12. Expression of uncertainty
14. Indicates before
15. Daughter of Hera and Zeus
16. Southwestern CA city
18. Unified
22. Less attractive
23. Base of jellies
24. A large and noisy party
26. He was traded for Luka
27. Wolverine genus
28. "Happy Days" actress Moran
30. Root of taro plant
31. Student environmental group (abbr.)
34. Silk garments
36. Unique power
37. Ray Liotta cop film
39. Leak slowly through
40. Notion
41. Atomic #55
42. Fixed in one place
48. About heat
50. Type of baseball pitch
51. Seedless raisin
52. Large wading birds
53. Similar
54. Time zone
55. Atomic #34
56. Program
58. Old world, new
59. Contrary belief
60. "To the __ degree"

CLUES DOWN
1. Plain-woven fabric
2. Classed
3. Suppositions
4. Midway between south and west
5. Tropical American trees
6. Leveled
7. Published false statement
8. Adolescent
9. Junior's father
12. Aurochs
13. Not low
17. Boxing's GOAT
19. Short musical composition
20. Small immature herrings
21. Eavesdropper
25. Parcels of land
29. Anger
31. Irritations
32. Hindu holy man
33. Wicker basket for fish
35. Natural object
38. Transporting in a vehicle
41. A dog is one
43. Smaller portion
44. Sew
45. Belonging to a thing
46. Horsley and Greenwood are two
47. Scottish language
49. Producer
56. Exclamation of surprise
57. Russian river

■ see **Solution**, Page B7

Public Notices

Notice of Foreclosure by Advertisement

Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Allegan County, starting promptly at 9:00 AM, on August 7, 2025. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information:

Name(s) of the mortgagor(s): Douglas Miller, an unmarried man

Original Mortgagee: Mortgage Center, LLC

Foreclosing Assignee (if any): None

Date of Mortgage: February 2, 2017

Date of Mortgage Recording: March 3, 2017

Amount claimed due on date of notice: $27,769.99

Description of the mortgaged premises: Situated in City of Allegan, Allegan County, Michigan, and described as: Lots 19 and 20 of West Sunset Acres Plat, according to the recorded Plat thereof, as recorded in Liber 7 of Plats on Page 2.

Common street address (if any): 529 Sherman St, Allegan, MI 49010-1452

The redemption period shall be 6 months from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCL 600.3241a; or, if the subject real property is used for agricultural purposes as defined by MCL 600.3240(16).

If the property is sold at foreclosure sale under Chapter 32 of the Revised Judicature Act of 1961, pursuant to MCL 600.3278 the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period.

Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice.

This notice is from a debt collector.

Date of notice: July 3, 2025

Trott Law, P.C.

31440 Northwestern Hwy, Suite 145

Farmington Hills, MI 48334

(248) 642-2515

1565628

(07-03)(07-24)

Notice of Foreclosure by Advertisement Notice of foreclosure by advertisement. Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Allegan County, starting promptly at 9:00 AM on 8/21/2025. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of the sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information. Names of Mortgagor(s): Kameron Christian Daugherty and Steven Daugherty. Original mortgagee: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as mortgagee, as nominee for New American Funding, LLC. Date of mortgage: 1/12/2024. Mortgage recorded on 1/29/2024 as Document No. 2024001149, in Liber 4917, Page 236. Foreclosing Assignee (if any): New American Funding, LLC. Amount claimed to be due at the date hereof: $351,409.90 Mortgaged premises: Situated in Allegan County, and described as: LAND SITUATED IN THE STATE OF MICHIGAN, COUNTY OF ALLEGAN, TOWNSHIP OF CASCO. THE NORTH HALF OF THE NORTH HALF OF THE NORTHEAST QUARTER OF SECTION 21, TOWN 1 NORTH, RANGE 16 WEST. Commonly known as 596 66th St, South Haven, MI 49090. The redemption period will be 6 months from the date of such sale, unless the property is abandoned or used for agricultural purposes. If the property is determined abandoned under MCL 600.3241a, the redemption period will be 30 days from the date of such sale, or 15 days after the statutory notice, whichever is later. If the property is determined abandoned under MCL 600.3241, the redemption period will be 1 month from the date of such sale. If the property is presumed to be used for agricultural purposes pursuant to MCL 600.3240(16), the redemption period is 1 year from the date of such sale. The redemption period may be extinguished pursuant to MCL 600.3238. If the above referenced property is sold at a foreclosure sale under Chapter 32 of Act 236 of 1961, under MCL 600.3278, the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period. Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice. Date of Notice: 07/10/2025. Codilis & Moody, P.C. 15W030 North Frontage Road, Suite 100 Burr Ridge, IL 60527 (313) 536-2500. This law firm is a debt collector. C&M File 23-25-00210

(07-10)(07-31)

SHORT FORECLOSURE NOTICE - ALLEGAN COUNTY Notice of Foreclosure by Advertisement. Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Allegan County, starting promptly at 9:00 AM, on August 07, 2025. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of the sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information. MORTGAGE: Mortgagor(s): KEVIN L. EICHLER AND ANNETTE R. EICHLER HUSBAND AND WIFE Original Mortgagee: GREEN TREE FINANCIAL SERVICING CORPORATION Date of mortgage: April 10, 1997 Recorded on April 29, 1997, Liber 1639, on Page 163, and re-recorded via Loan Modification recorded on June 18, 2024 in Liber 4951, on Page 314 and re-recorded via Loan Modification recorded on June 18, 2024 in Document No. 2024008991 Foreclosing Assignee (if any): U.S. Bank National Association, as Trustee, as successor to Firstar Trust Company, as Trustee, for Manufactured Housing Contract Senior/Subordinate Pass-Through Certificate Trust 1997-5 Amount claimed to be due at the date hereof: Thirty-Two Thousand Three Hundred Eighty-Seven and 62/100 Dollars ($32,387.62) Mortgaged premises: Situated in Allegan County, and described as: PART OF THE NORTHWEST QUARTER OF THE SOUTHWEST QUARTER OF SECTION 16, TOWN 2 NORTH, RANGE 14 WEST, VALLEY TOWNSHIP, ALLEGAN, MICHIGAN, DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS: COMMENCING AT THE WEST QUARTER CORNER OF SECTION 16; THENCE SOUTH 89 DEGREES 11` 25" EAST ALONG THE EAST-WEST QUARTER LINE 1006.08 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING; THENCE SOUTH 89 DEGREES 11` 25" EAST ALONG THE EAST-WEST QUARTER LINE 306.04 FEET; THENCE SOUTH 00 DEGREES 04` 50" WEST ALONG THE WEST 1/8 LINE 1314.40 FEET; THENCE NORTH 89 DEGREES 01` 10" WEST ALONG THE SOUTH 1/8 LINE 304.82 FEET; THENCE NORTH 00 DEGREES 01` 35" EAST 1313.51 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING. Commonly known as 4353 118th Ave, Allegan, MI 49010 The redemption period will be 12 month from the date of such sale, unless abandoned under MCL 600.3241a, in which case the redemption period will be 30 days from the date of such sale, or 15 days from the MCL 600.3241a(b) notice, whichever is later; or unless extinguished pursuant to MCL 600.3238. If the above referenced property is sold at a foreclosure sale under Chapter 32 of Act 236 of 1961, under MCL 600.3278, the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period. Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice. U.S. Bank National Association, as Trustee, as successor to Firstar Trust Company, as Trustee, for Manufactured Housing Contract Senior/Subordinate Pass-Through Certificate Trust 1997-5 Mortgagee/Assignee Schneiderman & Sherman P.C. 23938 Research Dr, Suite 300 Farmington Hills, MI 48335 248.539.7400

1566027

(07-03)(07-24)

NOTICE OF MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE SALE

Notice is given under section 3212 of the Revised Judicature Act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following Mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the Allegan County Courthouse, starting promptly at 9:00 a.m. on August 7, 2025. The amount due on the Mortgage may be greater on the day of the sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the County Register of Deeds Office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information.

Default has occurred in the conditions of a Mortgage made by ARW HOLDINGS, LLC, 3147 57th Street, Fennville, MI 49408 ("Mortgagor") to JEFFERSON/MILLARD GROUP, LLC, a Michigan limited liability company, 1042 Watson Road, Mt. Pleasant, MI 48858, dated April 4, 2023 and recorded in the Office of the Register of Deeds for the County of Allegan, State of Michigan, on April 20, 2023, at Instrument No. 2023005725 and assigned to ERICH SPECKIN, 3533 NW 83rd Way, Pembrooke Pines, FL 33024 ("Mortgagee"), pursuant to an Assignment of Mortgage, dated April 25, 2023, and recorded in the office of the Register of Deeds for the County of Allegan, State of Michigan, on July 10, 2023, at Instrument No. 2023009898. There is claimed to be due at the date hereof the sum of Three Hundred Ninety-Four Thousand, Three Hundred Three and 31/100 dollars ($394,303.31).

The premises covered by the Mortgage are situated in the Township of Manlius, County of Allegan, and State of Michigan, described as follows:

The Northwest ¼ of the Northeast ¼ of Section 36, Town 3 North, Range 15 West, Except the East 20 acres thereof, except any portion thereof taken, deeded or used for highway purposes.

4880 126th Avenue, Fennville, MI 49408

Parcel Number: 14-036-002-00

The redemption period shall be 6 months from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCL 600.3241a; or, if the subject real property is used for agricultural purposes as defined by MCL 600.3240(16).

If the property is sold at foreclosure sale under Chapter 32 of the Revised Judicature Act of 1961, under MCL 600.3278, the Mortgagor will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the Mortgagee for damaging the property during the redemption period.

TO ALL PURCHASERS: The Mortgagee can rescind the sale. In that event, your damages are, if any, limited solely to the return of the bid amount tendered at sale, plus interest.

Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice.

Dated: July 10, 2025

Erich Speckin, Mortgagee

Michael F. Matheson

Matheson Law Firm

200 Woodland Pass, Suite F

East Lansing, MI 48823

(517) 993-6699

Attorneys for Mortgagee

7-10 7-31

Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice.

Notice of foreclosure by advertisement. Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Allegan County, starting promptly at 9:00 AM on AUGUST 21, 2025. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of the sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information.

Default has been made in the conditions of a mortgage made by Dallas Dickson, an unmarried man and Samantha Tilma, an unmarried woman, as joint, to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for Caliber Home Loans, Inc., Mortgagee, dated July 2, 2021 and recorded July 13, 2021 in Liber 4644, Page 194 Allegan County Records, Michigan. Said mortgage is now held by NewRez LLC d/b/a Shellpoint Mortgage Servicing, by assignment. There is claimed to be due at the date hereof the sum of Two Hundred Thirty-Four Thousand Two Hundred Forty-Five and 7/100 Dollars ($234,245.07).

Under the power of sale contained in said mortgage and the statute in such case made and provided, notice is hereby given that said mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at public venue at the place of holding the circuit court within Allegan County, Michigan at 9:00 AM on AUGUST 21, 2025.

Said premises are located in the Township of Cheshire, Allegan County Michigan, and are described as:

THE SOUTHEAST QUARTER OF THE SOUTHEAST QUARTER OF SECTION 23, TOWN 1 NORTH, RANGE 14 WEST.

3840 104th Avenue, Allegan, Michigan 49010

The redemption period shall be 6 months from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCLA §600.3241a, in which case the redemption period shall be 30 days from the date of such sale.

If the property is sold at foreclosure sale, pursuant to MCL 600.3278, the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damage to the property during the redemption period.

Dated: July 10, 2025

File No. 25-008989

Firm Name: Orlans Law Group PLLC

Firm Address: 1650 West Big Beaver Road, Troy MI 48084

Firm Phone Number: (248) 502.1400

(07-10)(07-31)

FORECLOSURE NOTICE Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice. Notice of foreclosure by advertisement. Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Allegan County, starting promptly at 09:00 AM, August 21, 2025. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of the sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information. Default has been made in the conditions of a certain mortgage made by Ryan Perisee and Zoila Perisee, Husband and Wife to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc. as Mortgagee, as Nominee for Amerifirst Financial Corporation, its successors, and assigns, Mortgagee, dated November 10, 2011, and recorded on November 15, 2011, in Liber 3563, Page 506, Allegan County Records, said mortgage was modified by Loan Modification Agreement dated March 1, 2016 and recorded April 4, 2016 in Liber 4015, Page 793, Allegan County Records, said mortgage was assigned to Carrington Mortgage Services, LLC by an Assignment of Mortgage dated February 21, 2023 and recorded February 21, 2023 in Liber 4837, Page 141, on which mortgage there is claimed to be due at the date hereof the sum of Seventy-Six Thousand Six Hundred Fifteen and 39/100 ($76,615.39) including interest at the rate of 4.50000% per annum. Said premises are situated in the Township of Ganges, Allegan County, Michigan, and are described as: Beginning on the East and West 1/4 line of Section 5, Township 2, North, Range 16 West at a point 614.00 feet North 88 degrees 39 minutes 00 Seconds West of the East 1/4 Post of the Section; Thence North 88 degrees 39 minutes 00 seconds West on the 1/4 line, 326.80 feet; Thence North 250.00 feet; Thence South 88 degrees 39 minutes 00 Seconds East 326.80 feet; Thence South 250.00 feet to the place of beginning. Commonly known as: 6831 123RD AVE, FENNVILLE, MI 49408 If the property is eventually sold at foreclosure sale, the redemption period will be 6.00 months from the date of sale unless the property is abandoned or used for agricultural purposes. If the property is determined abandoned in accordance with MCL 600.3241 and/or 600.3241a, the redemption period will be 30 days from the date of sale, or 15 days after statutory notice, whichever is later. If the property is presumed to be used for agricultural purposes prior to the date of the foreclosure sale pursuant to MCL 600.3240, the redemption period is 1 year. Pursuant to MCL 600.3278, if the property is sold at a foreclosure sale, the borrower(s) will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period. TO ALL PURCHASERS: The foreclosing mortgagee can rescind the sale. In that event, your damages are, if any, limited solely to the return of the bid amount tendered at sale, plus interest. Dated: July 17, 2025 Randall S. Miller & Associates, P.C. Attorneys for Carrington Mortgage Services, LLC 43252 Woodward Avenue, Suite 180, Bloomfield Hills, MI 48302, (248) 335-9200 Hours: 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Case No. 25MI00485-1

(07-17)(08-07)

STATE OF MICHIGAN

48th JUDICIAL DISTRICT

JUDICIAL CIRCUIT

COUNTY PROBATE

ORDER FOR SERVICE BY PUBLICATION/POSTING AND NOTICE OF ACTION

CASE NO. 25-70304-CH

Court address 113 Chestnut Sireet, Allegan, Michigan 49010

Court telephone no 269-673-0300

Plaintiff name(s), address(es), and telephone no(s).

Estate of Jimmy Hull Jr.,

Tracy Davis, personal representative

3806 Yorkland Drive NW, Apt 12, Comstock Park, Michigan 49321

v

Defendant name(s), address(es), and telephone no(s).

1996 Lib Cara Mobile Home NV#01L32908

4736 Rabbit River Drive, Lot #7 Hamilton, Michigan 49419

IT IS ORDERED:

1. You are being sued in this court by the plaintiff to transfer title of mobile home. You must file your answer or take other action permitted by law in this court at the court address above on or before Auqust 15, 2025 . If you fail to do so, a default judgment may be entered against you for the relief demanded in the complaint filed in this case.

2. A copy of this order shall be published once each week in Allegan County News for three consecutive weeks, and proof of publication shall be filed in this court.

6-24-2025

Judge Matthew Antkovial 59449

7-17 7-31

SHORT FORECLOSURE NOTICE - ALLEGAN COUNTY Notice of Foreclosure by Advertisement. Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Allegan County, starting promptly at 9:00 AM, on August 21, 2025. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of the sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information. MORTGAGE: Mortgagor(s): Joyce Gabrys a/k/a Joyce Marie Gabrys, an unmarried woman Original Mortgagee: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc. ("MERS"), solely as nominee for lender and lender`s successors and assigns Date of mortgage: April 7, 2017 Recorded on April 14, 2017, Liber 4130, on Page 483, Foreclosing Assignee (if any): The Huntington National Bank Amount claimed to be due at the date hereof: One Hundred Thirty-Nine Thousand Three Hundred Sixty-Eight and 73/100 Dollars ($139,368.73) Mortgaged premises: Situated in Allegan County, and described as: Parcel A: A parcel of land being part of the Northeast 1/4 of Section 3, Town 4 North, Range 16 West, Laketown Township, Allegan County, Michigan and being more particularly described as Commencing at the East 1/4 corner of said Section 3; thence North 88 degrees 38 minutes 50 seconds West, along the South line of the Northeast 1/4 of Section 3, a distance of 1202.64 feet; thence North 00 degrees 10 minutes 54 seconds West, a distance of 400.00 feet to the point of beginning of the parcel of land herein described; thence continue North 00 degrees 10 minutes 54 seconds West, a distance of 320.05 feet; thence South 88 degrees 38 minutes 50 seconds East, parallel with the South line of the Northeast 1/4 of Section 3, a distance of 558.57 feet; thence South 00 degrees 01 minute 40 seconds East, parallel with the East line of the Northeast 1/4 of Section 3, a distance of 320.00 feet; thence North 88 degrees 38 minutes 50 seconds West, parallel with the South line of the Northeast 1/4 of Section 3, a distance of 306.64 feet; thence North 88 degrees 39 minutes 36 seconds West, a distance of 126.07 feet; thence North 88 degrees 38 minutes 50 seconds West, parallel with the South line of the Northeast 1/4 of Section 3, a distance of 125.00 feet to the point of beginning EXCEPT Part of the Northeast 1/4, Section 3, Town 4 North, Range 16 West, Laketown Township, Allegan County, Michigan, described as: Commencing at the East 1/4 corner of said Section; thence North 00 degrees 22 minutes 00 seconds West 400.00 feet along the East line of said Section, thence North 88 degrees 58 minutes 59 seconds West 645.99 feet, parallel with the East-West 1/4 line of said Section to the point of beginning; thence continuing North 88 degrees 58 minutes 59 seconds West 306.64 feet; thence North 88 degrees 59 minutes 45 seconds West 126.07 feet; thence North 00 degrees 31 minutes 03 seconds East 100.06 feet; thence South 88 degrees 58 minutes 59 seconds East 432.98 feet; thence South 00 degrees 21 minutes 47 seconds East 100.03 feet to the point of beginning. Parcel B: Part of the Northeast one-quarter of Section 3, Town 4 North, Range 16 West, described as: Beginning at a point on the East-West one-quarter line of Section 3, distant North 88 degrees 38 minutes 50 seconds, West 1202.64 feet from the East one-quarter corner of Section 3 and proceeding thence North 88 degrees 38 minutes 50 seconds West 50.00 feet; thence North 00 degrees 10 minutes 54 seconds West 183.00 feet; thence North 88 degrees 38 minutes 50 seconds West 66.00 feet; thence along the West line of the Southeast one-quarter of the Northeast one quarter of Section 3, North 00 degrees 10 minutes 50 seconds West 734.06 feet; thence South 88 degrees 38 minutes 50 seconds East 335.04 feet; thence North 81 degrees 48 minutes 09 seconds East 25.38 feet; thence South 08 degrees 11 minutes 51 seconds East 4.27 feet; thence South 88 degrees 38 minutes 50 seconds East 524.32 feet; thence South 00 degrees 01 minutes 40 seconds East 267.00 feet; thence North 88 degrees 38 minutes 50 seconds West 210.00 feet; thence North 00 degrees 01 minutes 40 seconds West 70.00 feet; thence North 88 degrees 38 minutes 50 seconds West 558.57 feet; thence South 00 degrees 10 minutes 54 seconds East 720.05 feet to the point of beginning. Except that part taken, used, or deeded for road purposes. Commonly known as 6445 147th Ave, Holland, MI 49423 The redemption period will be 6 month from the date of such sale, unless abandoned under MCL 600.3241a, in which case the redemption period will be 30 days from the date of such sale, or 15 days from the MCL 600.3241a(b) notice, whichever is later; or unless extinguished pursuant to MCL 600.3238. If the above referenced property is sold at a foreclosure sale under Chapter 32 of Act 236 of 1961, under MCL 600.3278, the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period. Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice. The Huntington National Bank Mortgagee/Assignee Schneiderman & Sherman P.C. 23938 Research Dr, Suite 300 Farmington Hills, MI 48335 248.539.7400

1567102

(07-17)(08-07)

STATE OF MICHIGAN

PROBATE COURT

ALLEGAN COUNTY

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Decedent's Estate

CASE NO. and JUDGE

Court address 113 Chestnut Street, Allegan, MI 49010

Court telephone no.(269) 673-0250

Estate of Paul Zylema Date of Birth:*June 18, 1959

TO ALL CREDITORS: **

NOTICE TO CREDITORS: The decedent, Paul Zylema, died June 11, 2025 .

Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless presented to Mark Zylema, personal representative, or to both the probate court at 113 Chestnut Street, Allegan, MI 49010 and the personal representative within 4 months after the date of publication of this notice.

July 10, 2025

Jamie J. Vander Kolk P63084

3996 Chicago Drive SW

Grandville, Michigan 49418

616.531.7711

Mark Zylema

2937 Meade Road

Allegan, Michigan 49010

269.993.0703

STATE OF MICHIGAN

PROBATE COURT

ALLEGAN COUNTY

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Decedent's Estate

CASE NO. 25-65693-DE and JUDGE

Court address 113 Chestnut Street, Allegan, MI 49010

Court telephone no.(269) 673-0250

Estate of Judith Ann Harrison Date of Birth:*Nov 3, 1933

TO ALL CREDITORS: **

NOTICE TO CREDITORS: The decedent, Judith Ann Harrison , died MAR. 5, 2024.

Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless presented to Brenda Catherine Loviska, personal representative, or to both the probate court at 113 Chestnut Street, Allegan, MI 49010 and the personal representative within 4 months after the date of publication of this notice.

Brenda Catherine Loviska

75 - 118th Ave.

Shelbyville, MI 49344

STATE OF MICHIGAN

PROBATE COURT

ALLEGAN COUNTY

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Decedent's Estate

CASE NO. 25-65728-DE and JUDGE Hon. Jolene A. Clearwater

Court address 113 Chestnut Street, Allegan, MI 49010

Court telephone no.(269) 673-0250

Estate of JOHN PERRY BEEBE Date of Birth:*10/11/1967

TO ALL CREDITORS: **

NOTICE TO CREDITORS: The decedent, JOHN PERRY BEEBE, died 06/03/2025 .

Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless presented to Karen M. Ross, personal representative, or to both the probate court at 113 Chestnut Street, Allegan, MI 49010 and the personal representative within 4 months after the date of publication of this notice.

July 16, 2025

Gary E. Tibble P43886

5144 Gull Rd.

Kalamazoo, MI 49048

269-383-6000

Karen M. Ross

4495 Hiawatha Dr.

Cheboygan, MI 49721

231-290-2278

STATE OF MICHIGAN

48th Judicial District

Judicial circuit

COUNTY PROBATE

ORDER REGARDING ALTERNATE SERVICE

CASE NO. 25.70574-CH

Hon. Matthew Antkoviak

Court address 113 Chestnut St, Allegan, Michigan 49010-1332

Court telephone no. 269.673.0300

Plaintiffs name(s), address(es), and telephone nos).

NewRez LLC d/b/a Shellpoint Mortgage Servicing

Plaintiff's attorney, bar no., address, and telephone no.

Trott Law, P.C.

Jeanne M. Kivi P53647

31440 Northwestern Hwy., Ste. 145

Farmington Hills, MI 48334-5422

248.642.2515

521762L02

v

Defendant's name(s), address(es), and telephone no.

Anna Schwander

320 S Maple St

Fennville, MI 49408-5120

In the matter of NewRez LLC d/b/a Shellpoint Mortgage Servicing v. Anna Schwander, ef al.

THE COURT FINDS:

1. Service of process upon the defendant, Anna Schwander cannot reasonably be made as provided in MCR 2.105, and service of process may be made in a manner that is reasonably calculated to give the defendant actual notice of the proceedings and an opportunity to be heard.

iT IS ORDERED:

2. Service of the summons and complaint and a copy of this order may be made by the following method(s).

a. First-class mail to 320 S Maple St, Fennville, MI 49408-5120

b. Tacking or firmly affixing to the door at 320 S Maple St, Fennville, MI 48408-5120

d. Other: Publication in the Allegan COunty News for three consecutive weeks per mlc 2.106.

For each method used, proof of service must be filed promptly with the court.

7-10-2025

Judge Hon. Matthew Antkoviak P59449

7-24 8-6

TO ALL PERSONS, including: (specify non-custodial parent's name here, if applicable)

whose address is unknown and whose interest in the matter may be barred or affected by the following:

TAKE NOTICE: MARIA LEYLA RUIZ MAGANA has filed a petition for name change.

A name change hearing will be held on TUESDAY, AUGUST 26, 2025 AT 2:00 PM at FAMILY COURT COURTROOM before Judge Hon. Jolene Clearwater P74848, to change the name of: MARIA LEYLA RUIZ MAGANA to LEYLA ZULEY MAGANA

STATE OF MICHIGAN

PROBATE COURT

ALLEGAN COUNTY

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Decedent's Estate

CASE NO. and JUDGE HON. JOLENE A CLEARWATER

Court address 113 Chestnut Street, Allegan, MI 49010

Court telephone no.(269) 673-0250

Estate of Teresa Burgos Date of Birth:*3-11-45

TO ALL CREDITORS: **

NOTICE TO CREDITORS: The decedent, Teresa Burgos, died 3-11-23 .

Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless

(Continued on Page B7)

Public Notices

Continued from Page B6

presented to Margaret Burgos, personal representative, or to both the probate court at 113 Chestnut Street, Allegan, MI 49010 and the personal representative within 4 months after the date of publication of this notice.
7-10-25
Margaret Burgos
5203 123rd Ave
Fennville, MI 49408
616-405-4456

STATE OF MICHIGAN
48TH CIRCUIT COURT-FAMILY DIVISION
ALLEGAN COUNTY
PUBLICATION OF HEARING
Court Address: 113 Chestnut, Allegan, MI 49010
TO:ALLEGAN COUNTY NEWS
241 HUBBARD STREET
ALLEGAN, MI 49010
IN THE MATTER OF: KAY'TRAIL LEWIS
CASE NO. 23-67640-NA
A TERMINATION OF PARENTAL RIGHTS HEARING will be conducted by the court on AUGUST 14, 2025 at 9:00 AM in 48TH CIRCUIT COURT - FAMILY COURT HEARING ROOM B before REFEREE MICHAEL DEYOUNG. You have the right to an attorney and the right to a trial by a judge or jury.
IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED that TURON LEWIS personally appear before the court at the time and place stated above. This hearing may result in the Termination of your parental rights. 113 Chestnut St. Allegan, MI 49010, Family Division.
Dated: 7/11/25
Judge Jolene A. Clearwater (P74848)

STATE OF MICHIGAN
48TH CIRCUIT COURT-FAMILY DIVISION
ALLEGAN COUNTY
PUBLICATION OF HEARING
CASE NO. 25-70268-NA
Court Address: 113 Chestnut, Allegan, MI 49010
TO:ALLEGAN COUNTY NEWS
241 HUBBARD STREET
ALLEGAN, MI 49010
IN THE MATTER OF: VIOLET, DANIEL, AND ETERNITY WHEELER, AND PARKER ALLEN.
A hearing regarding BENCH TRIAL TO ESTABLISH JURISDICTION OVER THE MINOR CHILDREN will be conducted by the court on AUGUST 25, 2025 at 9:00 AM in 48TH CIRCUIT COURT-FAMILY DIVISION - HEARING ROOM B before REFEREE MICHAEL DEYOUNG. You have the right to an attorney and the right to a trial by a judge or jury.
IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED that EVIN WHEELER personally appear before the court at the time and place stated above. This hearing may result in the Termination of your parental rights. 113 Chestnut St. Allegan, MI 49010, Family Division.
Dated: 7/11/25
Judge Jolene A. Clearwater (P74848)

TO ALL PERSONS, including: (specify non-custodial parent's name here, if applicable)
whose address is unknown and whose interest in the matter may be barred or affected by the following:
TAKE NOTICE: KYLA BARNHART-GROSTICK has filed a petition for name change.
A name change hearing will be held on AUGUST 5, 2025 @ 9:30AM at 113 Chestnut St, Allegan, MI 49010 before Judge Hon. Jolene Clearwater P74848 , to change the name of: AVA CATALINA GROSTICK to AVA CATALINA RODRIGUEZ

STATE OF MICHIGAN
PROBATE COURT
ALLEGAN COUNTY
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Decedent's Estate
CASE NO. 25-65670-DE and JUDGE
Court address 113 Chestnut Street, Allegan, MI 49010
Court telephone no.(269) 673-0250
Estate of Norman Christy Fouts
Date of Birth:*08/02/1943
TO ALL CREDITORS: **
NOTICE TO CREDITORS: The decedent, Norman Christy Fouts , died 01/14/2024.
Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless presented to Kenneth L. Fouts, personal representative, or to both the probate court at 113 Chestnut Street, Allegan, MI 49010 and the personal representative within 4 months after the date of publication of this notice.
Daniel J. Veen P47685
1676 West D Ave.
Kalmazoo, MI 49009
(269) 381-4476
Kenneth L. Fouts
7943 E. D Ave.
Richland, MI 49083
(269) 352-5507

Notice of Foreclosure by Advertisement
Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Allegan County, starting promptly at 9:00 AM, on August 21, 2025. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information:
Name(s) of the mortgagor(s): Michael Postmus and Sarah Postmus, husband and wife
Original Mortgagee: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as mortgagee, as nominee for lender and lender's successors and/or assigns
Foreclosing Assignee (if any): PennyMac Loan Services, LLC
Date of Mortgage: September 29, 2021
Date of Mortgage Recording: October 5, 2021
Amount claimed due on date of notice: $109,542.44
Description of the mortgaged premises: Situated in Township of Manlius, Allegan County, Michigan, and described as: Beginning on the North line of Government Lot 2, Section 15, Town 3 North, Range 15 West, 746.00 feet West of the Northeast corner thereof, thence South 40 degrees East 142.08 feet; thence West about 242 feet to Kalamazoo River; thence Northwesterly along the river to the North line of said Government 2; thence East 200 feet to beginning
Common street address (if any): 5320 131st Ave, Hamilton, MI 49419-9691
The redemption period shall be 6 months from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCL 600.3241a; or, if the subject real property is used for agricultural purposes as defined by MCL 600.3240(16).
If the property is sold at foreclosure sale under Chapter 32 of the Revised Judicature Act of 1961, pursuant to MCL 600.3278 the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period.
Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice.
This notice is from a debt collector.
Date of notice: July 24, 2025
Trott Law, P.C.
31440 Northwestern Hwy, Suite 145
Farmington Hills, MI 48334
(248) 642-2515
1567183
(07-24)(08-14)

Public Notice

In a Special Overisel Township Planning Commission Meeting to be held on Tuesday, August 19, 2025 at 7:30 PM in the Overisel Township Hall the Commission will hear the following request. Dan Cook of 1155 Lincoln Road, Allegan, MI 49010 is requesting to rezone a parcel of property currently zoned Agricultural to R1. The parcel in question can be identified as parcel number 18-034-017-00 Overisel Township, Allegan County, MI. All Interested parties are invited to attend this meeting. Handicap provisions will be provided by calling the Township Office in advance at 269-751-7030.

Dave Arendsen, Secretary
Overisel Township Planning Commission

ORDINANCE NO. 282

NOTICE OF ORDINANCE ADOPTION
City of Wayland
Allegan, County, Michigan

TO: THE RESIDENTS, PROPERTY OWNERS OF THE CITY OF WAYLAND, ALLEGAN COUNTY, MICHIGAN, AND OTHER INTERESTED PERSONS:

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE THAT THE FOLLOWING Ordinance was adopted by the Wayland City Council at a regular meeting held July 21, 2025.
AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND SECTIONS 2-212 AND 2-213 OF THE CITY OF WAYLAND CODE OF ORDINANCES

An ordinance to amend Sections 2-212 and 2-213 of Chapter 2, Article VI, Division 3 of the Wayland Code of Ordinances, for the purposes of delaying the date upon which interest begins to accrue, lowering the collection fee charged, and delaying the collection fee due date with respect to unpaid city taxes.

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that the full text of the City of Wayland Ordinance 282 is available at city Hall, 103 S. Main Street, during normal business hours, or upon request from the Wayland City Clerk.

Joyce Jenkins, Deputy City Clerk
CITY OF WAYLAND
103 S. Main Street

NOTICE

OF PUBLIC HEARING
WAYLAND TOWNSHIP PLANNING COMMISSION
1060 129th Avenue
Bradley, MI 49311
269-792-6394

Notice is hereby given that pursuant to PA 110 of 2006, the Michigan Zoning Enabling Act, the Planning Commission of Wayland Township will hold a Public Hearing to deliberate the following topics on Wednesday, August 13, 2025 at 6:30 p.m., at the Wayland Township Hall located at 1060 129th Avenue, Shelbyville, Michigan.

1. An application from Mike West of Green Development Ventures, interested party, on behalf of Robert Arendsen, Owner of the unaddressed property along the west side of Patterson road in Section 25 of Wayland Township, also known as parcel number 03-24-025-001-02 and comprising approximately 57.9 acres, for rezoning from AG/R-2 to R2PUD, and preliminary plan for a Residential Planned Unit Development "Atlas Preserve".
2. Any other business that comes properly before the Planning Commission.

Copies of the proposed amendments, application, and materials are available for review at the Township Hall during regular business hours.

This meeting is intended to provide an opportunity for Township residents and interested citizens to express their opinions, ask questions, and discuss all aspects of the requests. Those unable to attend the public hearing are invited to submit written comments to the attention of the Planning Commission at Wayland Township Hall, P.O. Box 1, Bradley, MI 49311. All written comments must be received by no later than 4:00 p.m. on Wednesday, August 13, 2025.

If any resident has a physical disability which may limit his/her participation in this hearing, please notify the Township Hall at least five (5) days prior to the hearing so that reasonable accommodations may be made.

DEB NARDIN, SECRETARY
WAYLAND TOWNSHIP PLANNING COMMISSION
(616) 437-2639

LEIGHTON TOWNSHIP

PLANNING COMMISSION
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 13, 2025 AT 7:00 p.m.
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Notice is hereby given that pursuant to PA 110 of 2006, the Michigan Zoning Enabling Act, the Planning Commission of Leighton Township will hold public hearings regarding the following requests during their regular meeting on Wednesday August 13, 2025, at 7:00 p.m., at Leighton Township Hall, 4451 12th Street, Suite A, Wayland, MI 49348.

Public hearings will be held on the following applications:
1. A request from John Bitely of Green Meadow Holdings LLC for Tentative Preliminary Plat Approval for Phase VII of Paris Ridge Estates on the unaddressed parcel known as parcel number 0313-002-002-04 per Ordinance 2000-6-2 of the Leighton Township Code of Ordinances.
2. Any other such business as may come before the Planning Commission.

This meeting is intended to provide an opportunity for Township residents and interested citizens to express their opinions, ask questions, and discuss all aspects of the requests. Those unable to attend the public hearing are invited to submit written comments to the attention of the Harry DeHaan, Planning Commission Chairman, care of Leighton Township, 4451 12th Street, Suite A, Wayland, MI 49348.

If any resident has a physical disability which may limit his/her participation in this hearing, please notify the Township Hall at least five (5) days prior to the hearing so that reasonable accommodations may be made.

BEN POTTS, CHAIR
LEIGHTON TOWNSHIP PLANNING COMMISSION

CLASSIFIEDS

Help Wanted

COOK. Exp. Grill & fryer cook. Start immediately. Shift approx. 3 p.m. to 9:30 p.m., 3 to 4 days a week. Good pay. Apply in person at CHESHIRE HILLS GOLF COURSE

Sale

Friday/Saturday - July 25 & 26. 6448 134th Ave. – Saugatuck – 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. House furnishings: Rattan Chair, Lexington Upholstered Chair, Circa 1900 Dining Table, 6 Mahoghany Rose Carved Dining Chairs, Mahoghany Drop-Leaf Table, various round wood tables, lamps, etc. Misc. artwork, housewares, glassware, seasonal décor, men's clothing, Michael Kors handbags, stereo equipment, CD's, Something for everyone!

Generators

Prepare for power outages today with a Generac Home Standby Generator. Act now to receive a FREE 7-Year warranty with qualifying purchase. Call 1-855-773-8191 today to schedule a free quote. It's not just a generator. It's a power move.

Lawsuit

IF YOU HAD KNEE OR HIP REPLACEMENT SURGERY and suffered an infection between 2020 and the present time, you may be entitled to compensation. Call Attorney Charles H. Johnson 1-800-535-5727

Cell Service

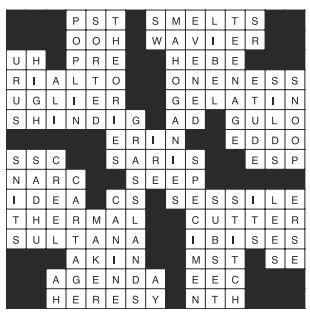
Consumer Cellular - the same reliable, nationwide coverage as the largest carriers. No long-term contract, no hidden fees and activation is free. All plans feature unlimited talk and text, starting at just $20/month. For more information, call 1-866-306-6243

For Rent

For Rent: Newly renovated duplex with two bedrooms and one bath Close to downtown Fennville. $1050 + utilities per month. Contact Derek Kronemeyer at 616.403.0016 or dpaulkronemeyer@gmail.com

Misc.

Safe Step. North America's #1 Walk-In Tub. Comprehensive lifetime warranty. Top-of-the-line installation and service. Now featuring our FREE shower package and $1600 Off for a limited time! Call today! Financing available. Call Safe Step 1-855-861-4501



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4	7	2	3	5	1	9	6	8
3	8	6	4	2	9	7	5	1
5	1	9	8	7	6	3	2	4

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PUBLISHER'S NOTICE:

All real estate advertising in this newspaper is subject to the Fair Housing Act which makes it illegal to advertise "any preference, limitation or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status or national origin, or an intention, to make any such preference, limitation or discrimination." Familial status includes children under the age of 18 living with parents or legal custodians, pregnant women and people securing custody of children under 18.

This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate which is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis. To complain of discrimination call HUD toll-free at 1-800-669-9777. The toll-free telephone number for the hearing impaired is 1-800-927-9275.

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CONSTRUCTION
New homes, additions, remodeling, roofing, siding, cement work.
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Redi-Mix Concrete
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673-6352
Babylon Road, Allegan

RELIGION SECTION

In the fifteenth chapter of his gospel, St Matthew tells the story of Jesus spending a long three days healing a vast number of people. But as the day drew to a close, he was concerned that the people had nothing to eat. "I have compassion on them," the Lord said, and then instructed the disciples to take care of the matter.

The disciples were distressed because they had no idea what they were going to do or how they could feed so many people. All they could find were seven small loaves and two fish. Although we are not told how many people were present that day other than some four thousand men, plus women and children, seven loaves and two fish were not going to be nearly enough.

We know that Jesus took the food and blessed it and then are quick to claim that it was a miracle that there was so much food for everyone to eat their fill and still have left overs. And yes, that is a true miracle, but I see a second one in this story.

This miracle involves the disciples. They brought the fishes and loaves to Jesus, even though they knew it was not sufficient for more than a few people to have a taste. Suddenly, it is almost as if he is telling them, "Keep going." The fact that they have the courage to move forward instead of arguing with the Lord, is the miracle. "Don't quit now! Keep going."

This is often our challenge sometimes, as well. We take one brief look at the world around us and we see the great needs of others. We see the problems and they appear overwhelming. Because of government cutbacks, food pantries will soon run low on supplies or run out. School programs will soon be cut back. Other organizations find their supplies depleted because the needs of the community are so great.

The message from Jesus is "Keep going" and do what you can for as long as you can. I think that applies to everything in life. I write that because life is not an intellectual experience, but something we do, and do it with grand panache and abundance.

G C Stoppel
Priest Associate
Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd, Allegan, MI

Directory of Area Churches

Allegan Assembly of God
424 DeLano St, Allegan
Pastors Tim Heath & Paul Hays
Church: 673-6577

Allegan Bible Church
412 S. Sherman, Allegan
Pastor Jon Gruss
Church: 673-6831

Allegan Christian Center
700 Ely St., Allegan
Paul Knuckles, Pastor
Church: 673-2921

Allegan County Jail
Chaplain Sarah Montgomery
Phone: 673-0350

Allegan United Methodist Church
Corner Walnut & Trowbridge streets, Allegan
Pastor Julia Humenik
Church: 673-4236;

At the Master's Feet
814 21st St., Otsego
269-694-6897
Paster Ray Brown

Blessed Sacrament Church
110 N. Cedar Street, Allegan
Fr. Simon Manjooran
Church: 673-4455

Bloomingdale Bible Church
210 Chestnut at Pine NW
Bloomin gdale
Ofc. 269-427-2101

Bravo Community Church
5587 113th Ave., Fennville
Pastor Duane Terpstra
616-886-1214

Burnips United Methodist
4241 30th, Burnips
Craig VanBeek, Pastor
616-896-8410

Calvary Church of Wayland (IFCA)
304 S. Main Street, Wayland
Pastor Chad Peckham
ccwayland.org

Casco United Methodist Church
880 66th Street, South Haven
Sunday Worship 10:00 a.m.
269-227-3328
www.cascoumc.org

Chicora Country Chapel
4399 108th Ave., Allegan
Pastor Herb Curry
Phone: 269-370-5834

Christ Community Church
3370 113th Ave., Allegan
www.alleganccc.org ·
(269) 673-2329
Pastor Wally Coots

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints
687 Linn Street, Allegan
Church: 673-9617

Church of God - Otsego
112 Kalamazoo St., Otsego
Pastor Stephen Burrow Sr.
269-694-9481
www.otsegocog.com

Corner Bible Church
4001 124th Allegan
673-5995
www.cornerbiblechurch.com

CrossWind Community Church
1632 142nd Avenue
Dorr, MI 49323
616-359-9013
Pastor Tommy Boutell

Dunningville Reformed Church
2559 M-40, Allegan
Church: 751-5894
Pastor Eric Burrows-Stone
dunningville.org/index.html

East Martin Christian Reformed Church
510-118th Ave., Martin
269-672-5746
www.eastmartincrc.org

Epiphany Lutheran Church (LCMS)
4219 Parklane, Dorr
www.epiphanydorr.org
Sunday service at 9:15 a.m., Bible Study and Sunday School following

Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd
101 North Walnut St, Allegan
Office: 673-2254

Faith Baptist Church
2846 125th Ave., Allegan
John Looman, Pastor
673-5040 1-888-354-3272

Fennville Assembly of God
5897 124th Ave.
Fennville, MI 49408
269-561-2683

Fennville United Methodist Church
5849 124th St., Fennville
269-561-5048
Bob Lynch, Pastor
www.fennvilleumc.org

First Presbyterian Church
200 Cutler Street, Allegan
Church: 673-4631
www.fpcallegan.org
10:00 service time.

First Baptist Church
1290 32nd St., Allegan
Service at 10:00am
Pastors Nathan Smith & Brendon Bayley
www.fbcallegan.com

First Baptist Church of Otsego
247 E Allegan St., Otsego
(269) 694-4160
firstbaptist@fbcotsego.org

First Church of God
1313 Marshall Street, Allegan
269 673-3881
www.pathtohim.org
Pastor, Tim Secord

First Congregational Church
323 Cutler Street, Allegan
Church Office: 673-3139
Pastor Todd Wagner

First Congregational Church
120 W. Morrell St., Otsego
269-694-6085
Pastor Lenny Luchetti

First Presbyterian Church of Plainwell
303 East Bridge St.
Plainwell, MI 49080
685-5990

Friendship Bible Church
104 Baker St., Hopkins, MI
Pastor Chris Cronk and Worship Pastor Tony Caldarona
Office 793-7929

Ganges Baptist Church
6577 122nd Avenue, Fennville
269-543-4203
11AM each Sunday

Grace Church of Hamilton
3690 Lincoln Rd. P.o. Box 97
Hamilton Mi 49419
269.264.4900
Gracechurchofhamilton@gmail.com

Haven Church
PO Box 1
4691 Oak Street, Hamilton
(269)751-7300
Pastor Mike Drew
FB:havenreformedchurch

Hope Lutheran Church
290 12th St., Plainwell
(269) 685-1348
Pastor Nicole Smith
Worship 10:30am; S. School 9:15am

Hopkins Community Reformed Church
2142 128th Ave., Hopkins
(269) 793-7361
hopkinscommunitychurch.net

Hopkins United Methodist Church
322 N. Maple St., Hopkins
(269) 793-7323
Pastor Kelsey French

Horseshoe Community Bible Church
4950 104th Avenue, Grand Junction
269-521-4580 ·
Pastor Don Miller

Immanuel Lutheran Church
631 Grand Street, Allegan
Church: 673-3335
Rev. Christopher Laughlin

Kingdom Hall of Jehovah's Witness
2199 Taft Road, Allegan
Phone: 673-6179

Living Waters Community Church
5458 M-89, Fennville
Service: 10:30 Sundays
Pastor Andrew Leach
269-561-5277

M-40 North Church of God
1900 M-40, Allegan
Pastor Nathan Strom
Church: 673-4412

Martin Reformed Church
1073 W. Allegan St., Martin
Pastor: Matthew Hendricks
672-5596

Martin United Methodist Church
969 E. Allegan St., Martin
Pastor Margaret Stoken
269-672-7097
www.martinumc.org

Merson Church
3313 102nd Ave., Gobles, MI
Office: 673-5274
www.mersonchurch.org

Montage Ministries
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Monterey Center United Methodist Church
3022 130th Ave.
Monterey Center, 49328
Craig VanBeek, Pastor
793-7288

Mt. Calvary M.B. Church
5425 105th Ave., Pullman
Pastor Everett Belue
269-382-3405

New Hope Baptist Church
2011 Lincoln Road (M-40 N)
Pastor Tadd Butler
673-1938

Northbridge Church
8824 Douglas, Kalamazoo
269-385-4378 ·
www.northbridge.cc

Northpoint Ministries
10976 M40 (M40/CR390)
Gobles MI · 269.628.9199
Pastor Gary Lounsberry
Sunday Worship: 11am

OAKLAND CRC
4460 38th Street
Hamilton. Mi. 49419
616 688 5290
Pastor Mark Vande Zande

Otsego United Methodist Church
223 E Allegan St. Otsego MI
10:00 a.m. Worship
Reverend Dan Minor
Otsegomethodistchurch.org

Pathfinder North Church
(A Global Methodist Church)
410 E. Orleans St.
Otsego, MI 49078
9:30 Fellowship 10:00 Worship
Rev Ron Hansen
Pathfindernorth.com

Peace Lutheran Church
805 S. Wilmott St., Otsego
www.peaceotsego.com
694-6104

Pearl United Methodist Church
1689 56th St., Fennville
269-561-5048 Worship 9:30 am
Bob Lynch, Pastor
www.fennvilleumc.org

Pentecostal Church of God I.M
2281 57th St, Fennville
Wed/Miércoles @ 7:00 pm
Sunday/Domingo @ 10:00 am
Worship Service @ 11:00am
Rev. Jeremias & Maribel Gaytan
231) 923-6887 - (231) 923-6959
Email: gytnj@yahoo.com

Plainwell First Baptist Church
404 W. Bridge St., Plainwell
(269) 685-8888
Pastor George Osborn

Plainwell First United Methodist Church
200 Park St. Plainwell
269-685-5113
www.fumcplainwell.com

Rectify Church
247 N. Main St., Allegan
616-218-1556
Pastor Sarah Montgomery

Refreshing Springs Ministries
201 Briggs St., Allegan
616-510-7416
Pastor Adrian Hall

River of Life Church
605 W. Allegan, Otsego
269-672-9904
www.alleganchurch.com

Seventh Day Adventist Church
229 Cutler Street, Allegan
Dan Rachor, Pastor
Church: 673-3284

Shelbyville United Methodist Church
938 124th Ave., Shelbyville
672-7097 - Church office
Pastor Margaret Stoken

South Monterey United Methodist Church
Pastor Kelsey French
Church: 793-7323

St. Francis of Assisi Episcopal Church
11850 9 Mile Rd., Shelbyville
269-664-4345
Service: Sundays 9:30 am

Saint John's Church Of God In Christ
716 Academy St, Allegan
Rev. Jeremiah Johnson Sr.
Phone: 673-8590—673-3007

St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church
1764 34th St., Allegan
Pastor Ronald Kruse 673-2079
Sunday Worship 11:00 a.m.

St. Margaret's Catholic Church
766 S. Farmer St., Otsego
269-694-6311

Third Coast Community Church
www.thirdcoastff.org |
269.857.5633
6069 Blue Star Hwy, Saugatuck, MI 49453
Sunday Worship: 10:00am

Trowbridge Community Church
355 26th Street, Otsego
Pastor Mykel Hall, Pastor
Church: 673-5502

The River Flows with Hope and Healing
1652 M-40 North, Allegan
Sunday Worship 10:30 a.m.

Unity Baptist Church
35 14 12th St. Wayland
Pastor Kelly Ryan
Cell # (269) 330-2217

Watson Bible Church
1626 116th St., Otsego
Pastor Tim Morris
672-2166

Wayland Community Church
502 West Superior, Wayland
(616) 877-6134
Worship Sunday @ 10:30am

UP UniPac "Contract Packaging Specialist" 809 Airway Dr. – Highland Industrial Park 269-673-8488

RAPA Rapa Electric, Inc. 1173 Lincoln Rd., Allegan 673-3155/673-3157

Waanders Concrete Co. Ready-Mix Concrete 3169 Babylon Rd., Allegan 673-6352

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CHRISTIAN NEIGHBORS

is proud to be voted as the best of the best community organization for Allegan County. We have been neighbors caring for neighbors since 1983 and are honored to be recognized for all the hard work and dedication of our volunteers, staff, and community supporters.

If you would like to support the great work we have been recognized for with this honor, please scan this QR code to make a donation.

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christianneighbors.org

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www.christianneighbors.org/events

Voted Best Nail Salon:

Lacey's Nail Studio

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We're excited to announce that we're Expanding! We're moving to a new and larger location!
116 Locust St in Downtown Allegan.
We will be tentatively opening mid August 2025!

laceysnailstudio.com

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Hamilton, MI 49419
ourflowershoppehamilton.com

The results are in and the people have spoken! In response to the request to nominate the Best of the Best in Allegan County, the responses have been tallied and the results are below.

The businesses in a community are truly the area's lifeblood. Small businesses and their employees demonstrate entrepreneurship and are rooted in the communities they serve. These businesses create jobs and are integral components of the area's economy. Allegan is loaded with businesses and individuals that exemplify the importance of serving their neighbors with a smile, a handshake plus high quality products and service.

BEST AUTO

Auto Body/Collision Shop ..... Ted's
Auto Detailing ..... Ric and Stan's Carwash
Auto Parts Store ..... Ihle's NAPA Auto Parts
Dealership Service Department ..... Ed Koehn Ford
Gas Station ..... Speedway
Independent Auto Service ..... Pro Automotive
Licensed Mechanic ..... Matt Elsey/Quality Auto
Oil/Lube ..... Douglas Shell
Tire Store ..... Westside
New Vehicle Dealer ..... Betten Baker
Used Vehicle Dealer ..... Auto West
Vehicle Salesperson ..... Bill Ball

BEST BUSINESSES/ORGANIZATIONS

Amish Business ..... Allen's Farm Market
Business with Best Customer Service ..... Timber Cannabis
Community Organization ..... Christian Neighbors
Local Business ..... Dunes View Kwik Shop
New Business in the Past Year ..... Brew Sisters
Non-Profit ..... Safe Harbor
Online Website (of a local business) ..... Rising Tide Business Support
Place to pickup a newspaper ..... The Little Store
Place to Work ..... Perrigo
Small Business ..... Butler Pantry

BEST CHILD CARE

Children's Program ..... Little Tigers
Coach ..... Tony Danzig (AHS)
Preschool/Daycare ..... Little Tigers
School ..... Douglas Elementary
School District ..... Allegan
Teacher ..... Mrs. Lori Ott (Pine Trails)

FAMILY FUN!
FOOD AND DRINKS!
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Safe Harbor
Children's Advocacy Center
BADGES AND BRAVERY
RUN AND RIDE
Choose from a 5k Run/Walk, ½ Mile Kids' Fun Run or one of our three long-distance bike rides - all to support child victims in our community!
SATURDAY, AUGUST 2
ALLEGAN SPORTS COMPLEX
USE QR CODE OR VISIT: SAFEHARBORCAC.ORG/EVENTS/BADGES-AND-BRAVERY/
Safe Harbor, CASA of the Harbor, works to provide a CASA volunteer to every child removed from their home due to abuse and/or neglect.
Provide a voice today! Become a CASA volunteer!
CASA
Court Appointed Special Advocates
FOR CHILDREN
CASA OF THE HARBOR

BEST FOOD RELATED

Bakery.....Village Market
Chinese Restaurant.....Juan Lin
Craft Brewery.....Tantrick
Craft Winery.....Fenn Valley
Cup for Coffee.....Mugshots
Deli Counter.....Village Market
Family Restaurant.....Schaendorf
Farm/Farmer's Market.....Allegan
Fast Food Restaurant.....Subway
Food Truck.....The Mobile Crave
Friday Fish Fry.....Blessed Sacrament
Grocery Store.....Meijer
Hamburger.....Corky's
Mexican Restaurant.....Taqueria San Francisco
Place for BBQ.....Big Moe's BBQ Express Truck
Place for Beer.....Tantrick
Place for Breakfast.....Minnies
Place for Ice Cream.....Plainwell Ice Cream
Place for Pizza.....Vitale's
Place for Steak.....Grill House
Place to Buy Meat.....Byron Center Meats
Restaurant.....Spectators
Salad Bar.....Allegan Pizza Hut
Sandwich/Sub.....The Little Store
Tavern/Bar.....Spectators
Waitress/Waiter.....Krista Hiscock (Village Inn)

BEST HEALTH/PERSONAL CARE

Assisted Living ..... Briarwood
Barber Shop ..... Hairworks 404
Hair Salon ..... Class Act
Hair Stylist ..... Makayla Rodgers (Hair by Revive)
Chiropractor ..... Dr. Lou/Riverfront Chiropractic
Dentist ..... Dr. Be/Allegan Family Dental
Dog Grooming ..... Renee Gleason-Walker
Eye Doctor ..... Dr. Paul Hodge/Allegan Eye Care
Gym/Fitness Center BW2
Hearing Aid Services ..... Miracle Ear
Laundromat ..... Wash Well
Nail Salon ..... Lacey's Nail Studio
Nurse ..... Shelly Ruthruff (AGH)
Physical Therapy ..... Holland Hospital
Physician/Family Doctor ..... Dr. Nabil Nouna MD
Tanning Salon ..... Beach Paradise/Tiki Kut
Tattoo Parlor ..... Bok's Ink Bazaar
Veterinarian ..... Dr. VanDenBrink/Allegan Animal Clinic

BEST STORES

Antique Store ..... Saugatuck Antique Pavilion
Bargain Retailer ..... Just a Second
Bookstore ..... It Is What It Is
Cannabis Dispensary ..... Green Koi
Clothing Store ..... Landsharks
Convenience Store ..... The Little Store
Farm Equipment Dealer ..... Greenmark
Feed/Farm Store ..... Familly Farm and Home
Flooring Company ..... Sackett's Flooring
Flower Shop ..... Our Flower Shoppe
Furniture Retailer ..... Country House
Hardware Store ..... Andy's Ace
Jewelry Store ..... Davis Jewelers
Lumber Company ..... Legg Lumber
Novelty/Gift Shop ..... Sassy Olive
Pet Supplies ..... Familly Farm and Home
Pharmacy ..... Moore Family Pharmacy
Resale/Consignment Shop ..... Aubrey's Closet
Smoke Shop ..... Stogies Cigar Shoppe

BEST PLACES

Bank/Credit Union ..... Allegan Credit Union
Campground ..... Triponds Family Camp Resort
Casino ..... Gun Lake
Church ..... First Congregational of Allegan
Event Venue ..... The Barn at Monterey Valley
Festival ..... Allegan County Fair
Funeral Home ..... Gorden
Golf Course ..... Cheshire Hills

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Friday: 10:00 am - 7:00 pm • Saturday: 10:00 am - 3:00 pm
Sunday: Closed

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Cleaning Services..... SERVPRO
Concrete Company.....Waanders
Construction Company.....Coopman Construction
Heating & Cooling .....Lapham
Landscaping/Lawncare..... Cutting Edge
Licensed Electrician..... Brad Speer (Haveman)
Licensed Plumber.....Tim Rogers
Manufactured Homes.....Roy's Home Center
Painter .....Kirk and Sons
Propane Company..... Endeavor
Repair Handyman.....Creg Kugelard
Restoration Service..... SERVPRO
Septic Services.....Wray's
Tree Service .....Andy's
Well Drilling.....Koops

BEST PROFESSIONALS

Accountant/CPA..... Michael J Kimble, PC CPA
Administrative Assistant/
Secretary ..... Lynelle Otis (Weichert Realty)
Attorney..... David F Kiel
Computer Services.....A-Tech
Financial Advisor..... Steve Tibbits
Firefighter.....Derek Pullen (Allegan)
Insurance Agent/Agency ..... Phil Siegler (Bartz Rumery)
Local Musician.....Andrea Jenkins
News Outlet.....The Allegan County News
Newspaper Columnist ..... Mike Wilcox
Photographer.....Scott Sullivan
Police Officer ..... Sgt. Tyler Gorby (APS)
Politician.....TIE - Frank Baker & Mike Villar
Real Estate Agent .....Carol Sneller
Real Estate Agency .....Sneller

Thank You!
Thanks for voting me as Your Favorite Real Estate Agent.

Carol Sneller
Broker-Owner, GRI, SRS

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Allegan County's Best Attorney

David F. Kiel is voted the Best Attorney in Allegan County for 2025. He would like to thank everyone who voted for him.

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Steve Tibbitts — CFP, CRC
Theresa Shippell — Administrative Assistant

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From the bottom of our hearts – thank you for making us #1.
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– The Spectators Family

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We're proud to be part of such an amazing community, and we look forward to continuing to grow with you—season after season!

Thank you again, so much!

The Team at Cutting Edge Lawn and Landscape LLC

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Lawn and Landscape

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Once you find the right vehicle, our finance experts can help you save with affordable financing and leasing options. Most drivers choose to finance the purchase of a vehicle. However, leasing can be a cost-effective solution for people who love the new car experience. Whatever path you choose, our team can help you build the ideal plan to meet your financial and driving goals.

Reliable Vehicle Maintenance and Repair Services
Our incredible services continue long after the sale. We offer a one-stop-shop solution for peace of mind and a streamlined ownership experience. Your vehicle will need routine maintenance no matter the make, model, year, or brand. Our certified technicians can perform all the maintenance and repairs you may need throughout the vehicle's lifespan.

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